



Thursday, February 8, 2018

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£232m project would also improve existing homes

D-DAY FOR NEW COUNCIL HOMES

Report by Jamie Brassington

IT is decision day for a plan to build more than 300 council homes in Dudley over the next five years, at a cost of more than £30 million.

The proposals go before Dudley Council's cabinet at a meeting today (Thursday).

The local authority has outlined ambitious plans to build new and improve existing council housing in the borough in a scheme with a total cost of £232m.

A Dudley Council spokesman said: "Our five-year programme going forward from April 2018 involves a proposed spend of over £30m, which aims to deliver in excess of 300 new homes."

The council is also proposing to spend £72m on the maintenance of existing council housing, including kitchen and bathroom replacements and work on roofs, doors and windows.

More than £22m has been identified to address fuel poverty, including improving central heating and providing more affordable heating in 3,250 homes, also reducing carbon emissions.

Nearly £31m would be spent on work to support independent living, including home adaptations for tenants with disabilities, plus and improvements to sheltered and supported homes.

Investment

And more than £13m will be invested in community and estate regeneration.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are committed to doing all we can to improve the standard of living for our tenants, and this huge investment over the next five years reflects that. The future is bright for Dudley."

"We want to make it as easy as possible for people to live and work here by offering good quality, fit for purpose, modern council homes."

Money spent on council homes is ring-fenced, and it is mainly sourced from rental income from tenants and receipts from right-to-buy sales.

The council says the programme of works has no impact on the level of council tax.

Dudley Council's plan to invest in homes comes as council bosses are set to make major decisions in the coming months over services and finances in the borough.

NED'S ATOMIC TIPPLE IS THE WONDER STUFF



Jonn Penny, of Ned's Atomic Dustbin, and Miles Hunt, of The Wonder Stuff, launch the new beer named in their honour

ROCKERS Ned's Atomic Dustbin and The Wonder Stuff's Miles Hunt shared a pint back at their home turf when they launched a new ale in their honour.

Ned's Wonder – a limited edition 4.1 per cent ale from Birmingham-based Froth Brewers Brewing Co – has been created to mark the forthcoming Love From Stourbridge tour, which will feature sets from both bands.

Miles joined Ned's members Jonn Penney

and Rat to perform a few acoustic numbers at The Duke William pub in Coventry Street, Stourbridge, in front of a select crowd before raising a glass as the first pint of Ned's Wonder was pulled.

Pub manager Jason Taylor, aged 39, said: "It was very successful – there were about 80 people upstairs.

"Everything went well and the three barrels we had all went.

"It is a malty beer and it is a more traditional style ale – we are sort of spoilt now with the choices of ales we have but this is a good base beer."

"I can't see why we would not have it on while they were touring."

"Hopefully it will crop up in a lot more local boozers – it is more choice for the community. They all enjoyed it and I think it will do well on the tour."

CRIME

Public warned over bogus water workers

POLICE have issued a warning following a spate of distraction burglaries carried out by crooks posing as water company workers.

Elderly people in Dudley, Tipton and Oldbury have been targeted by fraudsters claiming to be from water companies, who trick their way into homes and then search for money and valuables.

Severn Trent Water is also investigating, after reminding the public that their staff will always be in uniform. A police spokesman said: "These types of burglaries target vulnerable and elderly people."

HIPPODROME

Protest outside council house

A PROTEST will be held outside of Dudley Council house today (Thursday) ahead of a meeting that could decide the fate of Dudley Hippodrome.

Dudley Council's cabinet is due to decide this evening if campaigners given the keys to the Castle Hill landmark have met the aims laid out at the start of the project to save the venue. The protest is from 5.15pm.

● Curtain to fall? – page 14

POLICE

Probe into road death continues

A POLICE investigation is continuing into the death of a mother in a car crash near her home in Dudley. Vicki Jones, 30, died at the scene after a crash with a BMW in Wood Road, Lower Gornal, in September.

A 21-year-old man was arrested the following morning. West Midlands Police confirmed that no-one has been charged and inquiries are still ongoing.

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MUNICH IS REMEMBERED



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Father wants action on killer drivers



Georgie Evans

THE father of a teenager killed by a speeding driver has backed a campaign for tougher sentences started by The Chronicle's sister newspaper The Express & Star.

The Stop the Speeders petition was launched week after reporting on two men jailed for less than eight years for causing the death of a man by dangerous driving.

By the start of this week the petition had more than 1,100 signatures. It calls for judges to give longer sentences for killer drivers and will be sent to Prime Minister Theresa May.

The latest person to back it is Richard Evans, whose daughter Georgie Evans, a former pupil of Kinver High School, died when her car was hit by an Audi A6 driven by Kuba Ole, who was speeding on Priory Road in Dudley. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 24-year-old, of Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, fled the scene.

He was later jailed for six years, after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. Mr Evans said: "We lost our daughter on 27th October 2016 due to driver speeding at nearly 100mph in a 30mph zone. He struck her car with

such force it tore it in half. She hadn't a prayer."

"The driver then made off from the scene and handed himself in 18 hours later. He was sentenced to six years imprisonment and probably will be out in four. We are paying the ultimate sentence. Enough is enough."

Ole later tried to blame the victim, claiming she had been inexperienced and travelling too slowly. Those allegations were dismissed by the police.

Visit www.change.org/p/theresa-may-mp-killer-drivers-should-have-stiffer-sentences

Flexible and simplified new disability services due

DISABILITY services in Dudley are set to be transformed as part of a shake-up of special education and social care services.

Dudley Council's cabinet were being asked to rubber-stamp plans for the new look service at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Council said the proposals 'will improve co-ordination of care for people with disabilities from childhood through to adulthood'. The new service puts 'greater emphasis on helping people gain skills and knowledge, and have confidence and a social life', bosses added.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "This is a major transformation of services which will help people live a full and independent life."

"We have talked to services users and carers in recent months who have told us we need to do more to simplify processes, improve our response times and offer greater flexibility in the way we do things."

"We know all of these things combined with the fact that people should at the very least have a consistent and quality experience regardless of age, the introduction of the whole life disability service is a key move to transform the way we do things and ultimately improves a person's quality of life."

Council tax is set to rise by 4.5 per cent

DUDLEY Council is set to raise council tax by 4.5 per cent from April.

The authority is planning to increase council tax by 2.99 per cent, and charge households a further 1.5 per cent to fund adult social care.

Councillor Steve Clark, cabinet member for finance, said: "No council wants to increase council tax, but this small increase is the right thing to do for our residents."

Most households, in band B properties, will pay an extra 82p per week if the plans are approved. Households in band D properties will pay an extra £1.05.

Nearly 1,500 took part in consultation, called the Big Question, which ended last month. Council bosses will discuss the results at cabinet today (Thursday).

Last year the Government agreed to a deal allowing councils to increase council tax by 2.99 per cent and also approved a new social care precept – an extra rise in council tax – to generate money specifically for adult social care for older and more vulnerable people.

Savings

Councils were allowed to increase council tax under the precept between one and three per cent, with Dudley Council opting for a 1.5 per cent increase. This would make it the second lowest council tax rate in the country of metropolitan boroughs. It comes at a time when local authorities face a fall in funding from central government.

Dudley Council has put forward savings of £4m for the next financial year starting from April.

Council bosses will also consider increasing the social care precept by a further 1.5 per cent from April 2019, under proposed government rules. Councillor Clark continued: "We've already made significant savings, including £4m additional savings in 2018/19, but we still need to invest in our services."

A decision will be made at a full council meeting on February 19.

Fans in tribute to disaster victims



Fans at Old Trafford paid tribute to the victims of the Munich air disaster including Dudley's Duncan Edwards

"MANCHESTER, Munich and

Dudley will forever be united."

That was the moving final tribute in a special book of remembrance for Dudley-born football hero Duncan Edwards.

Rose Cook-Monk has handed the book over in the German city to mark the 60th anniversary of the Munich air crash, which claimed the life of England player Dun-

can and seven of his Manchester United team-mates, as well as several club officials, fans, journalists and air crew.

On the last page of the book she wrote: "On behalf of the Duncan

Edwards Foundation, our Mayor

Councillor Dave Tyler and the peo-

ple of Dudley, I am proud to hand

over the book of remembrance dedi-

cated to Duncan. We are immensely

proud of Duncan, his achievements and the wonderful person he was.

Manchester, Munich and Dudley

will forever be united."

Around a thousand Manchester United fans visited the German city as part of a commemoration, while supporters also paid tribute at Old Trafford on Saturday and on

Tuesday to the 'Busby Babes' team.

● Such great lads – page 20

Original shop to go after 130 years

A FAMILY-run jewellery business will close one of its shops after more than 130 years trading on a Black Country high street.

TH Bakers, which opened in 1888, has announced it will be closing its store in Brierley Hill High Street, which was its first shop. The company, which owns 30 stores around the country, will still operate other Black Country branches.

Paul Griffiths, a spokesman for the company, said: "The reason for the store's closure is due to long term declining trade on the high street to a point that, after trading on the high street for 130 years, keeping the store open is no longer feasible. However we are still trading in all of our other store areas, including Merry Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen."

Blues at the library

A COUNTRY-BLUES band will be playing a library gig on Saturday. The Whiskey Poets including author RJ Ellory and former ELO member Martin Smith are at Blackheath Library on Saturday at 7pm. Tickets with meal are £8 adults and £3 children. Call 0121 559 1884.

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Call for a one-way system to serve shops

A COUNCILLOR has called for new road safety measures at the entrance to a shopping centre in Sedgley.

UKIP's Councillor Bill Etheridge, who is also a Euro MP, said the road accessing the shopping precinct on the A463 Hurst Road, Sedgley, should be made one-way before someone gets hurt.

The Sedgley councillor said the vast majority of motorists enter the side road via the entrance next to the Tesco Express, but when vehicles enter via the bottom entrance 'temper can get frayed' as the road is too narrow to allow cars to pass each other.

Unsuspecting pedestrians are also less likely to check behind them as vehicles approach against the main traffic flow, he warned.

Mr Etheridge said: "This location is crying out for a little organisation. For the relatively low cost of a couple of 'No Entry' signs, safety and sanity can be brought to this location."

"I am writing to Wolverhampton Council to ask them to act on this before someone gets hurt one way or another."

Shopkeeper Bobby Singhkler, said: "The car park is a mess, with some people leaving their cars there for days. It should be a one-way system, as people argue about whose right of way it is all the time."

• Leadership bid – page 22

Straits not right for site, says MP

A PROPOSAL to build a temporary travellers site in Gornal has been strongly opposed by residents, says an MP.

Dudley Council is suggesting a transit site in the Straits but 93 per cent of residents surveyed by Dudley North MP Ian Austin opposed the move.

The Straits site, in a residential area, is one of 10 sites which Dudley Council is looking at to establish a camp.

Having such a site in the borough will make it easier for the police and council to move on travellers from illegal camps.

The Labour MP said: "It's a good idea to make it easier to move travellers off parks and public open spaces – and I stood up in Parliament to demand councils and the police are given more powers and resources to tackle illegal camps – but I do not think that heavily residential areas, such as the sites in my constituency at the Straits or Blowers Green, are suitable."

"Residents on the Straits are overwhelmingly against this proposal and I want the council to take into consideration how they feel."

£100m support for firms hit by Carillion crisis

CONTRACTORS hit by the collapse of Wolverhampton-based construction and support services giant Carillion will be able to apply for Government-backed loans as part of a £100 million support package.

Business Secretary Greg Clark said the British Business Bank will support high street lenders to give loans to small and medium-sized businesses and individuals owed money by Carillion.

Three high street banks have agreed to provide support worth almost £250m.

Mr Clark said: "We want to sig-

nal very clearly to small and medium-sized businesses who were owed money by Carillion that they will be supported to continue trading. The banks have responded to my request by agreeing to support businesses and individuals affected."

Chain

Mr Clark's department said the latest round of support will be of benefit to small businesses including the chain of subcontractors to Carillion. The Government has set up a task force involving business and unions to support firms and workers affected

by the collapse of Carillion. Its liquidation left in its wake a £900m debt pile, a £590m pension deficit and hundreds of millions of pounds in unfinished public contracts. It comes after more than 2,600 construction companies became insolvent in the last financial year, with more facing problems because of the collapse of Carillion, according to a new report.

Over the past week it has been announced that 820 staff would be made redundant with 919 other Carillion jobs saved as others took on their contracts.

Dudley people affected by the col-

lapse have been urged to call in at drop-in sessions at neighbourhood centres for advice. Staff will be on hand at Castle & Priory Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Limes Road, Dudley, from 9am to noon every Monday; at Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, from 1pm to 4pm every Wednesday; at Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Centre in Dudley Wood Road, Fridays from 9am to noon.

People can also contact the team on (01384) 818143 or 07799 070974, or email adultlearning.dachs@dudley.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to quiz region's mayor

PEOPLE will be given the chance to quiz the Mayor of the West Midlands in Dudley. Metro Mayor Andy Street will be holding the latest of his 'Ask Andy' sessions at Dudley College Musical Theatre, at Dudley Evolve on Tower Street, on March 5.

He said: "This is your chance to ask me about the progress we are making as a region in transforming transport, housing and skills. These are exciting times for the West Midlands and I want many people to be at Dudley College so I can talk to them about how (this) will affect their lives." The event is at 7.15pm by ticket only. Visit eventbrite.co.uk for free tickets.

Kindon is speaker at charity dinner

FORMER Wolves star Steve Kindon is the guest speaker at a sportsman's dinner in aid of the Smile For Joel charity next month.

The event takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday, March 1.

Tables of 10 are £400 plus VAT with a former player from either Villa, Wolves, Albion, Blues or Walsall on each table. Contact Route 39 on 01902 244220 to book places.

The cause was set up in memory of the Black Country's Tunisia terror attack victims.

Singing to bring back memories

A SINGING group in Sedgley is helping people with dementia bring back memories and reconnect with loved ones by singing old favourite tunes.

The Salvation Army has launched a programme called 'Singing By Heart' for people with dementia. It uses a mixture of popular songs and hymns, each carefully selected to ensure they are recognised.

Singing By Heart takes place at the rear of All Saints Church hall in Sedgley. The next sessions run from 2pm to 3.30pm on February 26, then on March 26, April 23 and May 28.

Gravel helps giraffes keep hooves healthy

DUDLEY Zoo's three giraffes are keeping their feet neat following a fresh delivery of gravel.

Keepers at Dudley Zoo have spread 40 tonnes of gravel across the 40-acre site refreshing the giraffe and reindeer paddocks.

The loose chippings have an important use for the long-legged ungulates as it helps naturally wear their hooves down. Giraffes Kubwa, Josie and Kito have regular hoof inspections.

Convicted killer tried to murder his sister-in-law

A CONVICTED Romanian killer who tried to murder again after being allowed into this country is facing up to 20 years behind bars.

Gheorghe Mihai launched a savage knife attack on his sister-in-law in Lye High Street, just months after arriving in the UK, Wolverhampton Crown court heard.

Fellow Romanian Gaman Bobi told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Mihai was drunk when he repeatedly stabbed 23-year-old Roxanna Mihai. Mr Bobi told the court: "He told me he was going to kill someone and go to jail for 10 years. I thought he was joking because he had drunk too much."

It took the jury less than two hours on Monday to convict Mihai of attempted murder.

He was warned by Judge Amjad Nawaz: "You are somebody with a predisposition to act in a violent way and a lengthy sentence awaits you."

Danger

The case was adjourned so that a report could be prepared on the level of danger he represents to the public.

The 38-year-old defendant – locked up for seven years after murdering a man in his home country in 2006 – attacked his sister-in-law in August 7 after she interrupted a conversation he was having with her husband, his stepbrother Gheorghe.

Witness Kieran Langan said the defendant, who lived in Park Street, Lye, looked like 'a man possessed'. He continued: "He was in a rage. I could tell that she was scared. Then I saw him open his jacket and pull out a large kitchen knife."

Terrified Roxana ran away pursued by knife-wielding Mihai and he caught up with her on a car park behind High Street, stabbing her at least four times as she lay on the ground.

She suffered several knife wounds before her life was saved when her husband reached the scene and punched her attacker in the face.

The defendant had denied attempted murder and possession of an offensive weapon.

Fizzogs set sights on Hollywood



Dancing grannies, from left, Fizzogs Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls and Emma Rollason

THEIR dancing grannies took the internet by storm but now Black Country comedy troupe The Fizzogs have their sights set on a big screen.

The Dancing Grannies have launched an online fundraising appeal to help get them to Hollywood. Money raised on The Fiz-

zogs' Crowdfunder page will pay for a 'teaser tape', which can be shown to potential producers.

If this catches the attention of the right Hollywood bigwigs then the group are optimistic a movie could be on the cards.

The Fizzogs announced: "The Dancing Grannies are well known

on the internet, a viral phenomenon with over 350 million hits across social media. Over the last six months we have been developing a feature film script with award-winning writer/director Benjamin Field." Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-dancing-grannies-help-us-get-to-hollywood

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£10,000 boost for Legion appeal

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's have raised £10,000 for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The amount raised by customers at the Oldbury store in October and November helped raise the UK's 2017 total to more than £3 million.

Katy Bradshaw-Sole, store manager at Sainsbury's Oldbury, said: "Our community always get behind the Poppy Appeal and each year our customers and colleagues continue to dig deep for the charity."

"We are thrilled to have raised such a huge amount for the Royal British Legion and look forward to seeing what the future holds."

Number of falls at hospitals reduced

THERE has been a 30 per cent reduction in falls at Black Country hospitals. The Safety Plan, which was introduced at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in January last year, involves clinical staff completing 10 safety checks when assessing a patient.

Statistics show the number of falls resulting in an injury has decreased by 30 per cent a week as a result of the plan being implemented across the trust. Figures also show 99 per cent of patients are receiving all 10 checks within 24 hours following admission.

Chief Nurse Elaine Newell said: "This is all about our patients."

Airport trials aid for blind in toilet

BIRMINGHAM Airport has become the first in the UK to fit the revolutionary RoomMate, an audio description unit for the visually impaired, in one of its disabled access toilets.

It provides an audio description of the facility for blind and visually impaired users.

Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) Manager, Ed Kibblewhite said: "We have since invited several groups to trial the RoomMate with us and look forward to their feedback."

Club for older people is open on Fridays too

A LUNCH and social activity club for older people is opening an extra day each week – Friday – from March 1. Break Away, at the Royal British Legion, Summerhill, Kingswinford, is currently open on Mondays and Thursdays between 9am and 4pm. Anyone interested is welcome to pop in for a chat or can get information from Jenny Bates on 07487 404882.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to raise money for Cancer Research UK's life-saving research. Just by wearing a unity band everyone can help make a real difference to people with cancer."

Inquest hears fourth suspect arrested

A FOURTH man has been arrested on suspicion of murdering shopkeeper Jaskaran Kang, who was stabbed to death in a flat above a shop in Dudley.

The 24-year-old father was found dead at the property above the Mini Mart on Stourbridge Road, Dudley, in the early hours of Saturday, January 6.

An inquest into the death of Mr

Kang, from Handsworth, was opened and adjourned on Friday at Black Country Coroner's Court, where it was revealed he was stabbed nine times and died from a stab wound to the leg.

Detective Inspector Justin Spanner, leading the investigation, told the hearing: "Police were called at 2.29am on January 6 to a flat, which was one of three flats above Dudley

Wines (Mini Mart), to a male who had been stabbed. Upon arrival ambulances were already there. Jaskaran Kang was found there with nine stab wounds. An altercation occurred and he received stab wounds."

DI Spanner confirmed three people had been charged with murder and revealed that further suspects had been arrested including another man on suspicion of murder.

Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until the conclusion of the police investigation. Three people charged with murder have appeared in court, Reggie Salmon, 20 from Stourbridge Road, Dudley, a 17-year-old youth from Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Dontay Ellis, 18, of Central Drive, Lower Gornal. They are to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 16 to enter a plea.

Coach travel firm has gone into liquidation

A TRAVEL company that closed unexpectedly last month and left customers hundreds out pounds out of pocket has gone into liquidation.

Group Travel Limited, a coach firm based in Audnam, Stourbridge, announced it has appointed insolvency expert Paul Brindley.

A statement from the company, which also has a branch in Shrewsbury, said all customers owed money would receive a letter from the liquidator. It added: "If you have not received a letter from the liquidator by February 5, and you have paid for a trip or voucher you have not received, please call the liquidator. To all trade creditors, the letter from the liquidator should be with you by February 5. If you have not received it by February 8, give the liquidator a call."

Roy Dade, from Shrewsbury, had a trip cancelled in November and is still waiting for money to be refunded. The 58-year-old was supposed to travel to London with his wife to see Annie the musical but was told on November 4 it had been cancelled. Last month he was given £150 cash towards the £330 he was owed. He said: "Given that their customer base was largely seniors, there is something very immoral in the fact that they were still taking money from pensioners. I suspect they have been in trouble for much longer than it appears. It's a sad story really because we have booked a lot of trips with them over the years, but at least it looks like they're trying to do the right thing now."

Contact the liquidator on 0800 2315788.

Bikes petition will go to Parliament

A PETITION has been launched to crack down on nuisance motorbike and quadbike riders in Dudley.

Riders have using illegal bikes over Fens Pool and Barrow Hill Reserves in Pensnett.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood has launched the petition which will go before the House of Commons calling on police to take action.

He said: "I have launched this petition to try to stop these bikes that are causing damage to the nature reserves. They are a real danger to people who use them a nuisance to residents who live nearby."

"Once people have signed the petition, I will present it in Parliament and use it to get the police and council to do everything possible to put an end to these menaces."



Dr Neil Steven, left, and Adrian Webb promote Cancer Research UK's Unity Band

Dr Steven, deputy director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Birmingham, said he hoped the campaign would receive backing to raise funds for life-saving research projects.

He said: "Adrian is living proof of how far research has come in recent years – but there is still so much more to do. Every day, around 85 people are diagnosed with cancer in the West Midlands so by wearing a Cancer Research UK Unity Band, people can show solidarity with those affected by

the disease. As a cancer consultant, I know firsthand the impact the disease has on individuals and families. That's why I'm inviting everyone to be part of a movement that can help make a real difference to so many people's lives."

Though World Cancer Day took place on Sunday, the Unity Band is still available online, in pink, navy and blue at cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/donate/world-cancer-day or to make a donation visit www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/donate

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Literature festival has highest yet attendance

A RECORD number of people attended this year's Wolverhampton Literature Festival.

More than 6,200 people took part in almost 100 events across more than two dozen venues.

Events included children's storytelling, workshops, theatre and performance, literature, poetry reading, music and art talks.

The three-day festival, which ran from January 26 to 28, saw award-winning writer and journalist Will Self headlining the celebrations.

A total of 98 events took place across 26 city venues during the event, which saw a major increase in attendance compared to the 2,000 who visited last year's inaugural festival.

Councillor John Reynolds, Wolverhampton council's cabinet member for city economy, hailed the 'tremendous' festival and said he is delighted it will be returning.

Councillor Reynolds said: "The feedback has been very positive and, thanks to Arts Council England funding, we can now look to build on this success in 2019 and for years to come."

The festival was made possible after the council teamed up with the University of Wolverhampton and the Express & Star. It was funded by an Arts Council England grant to Wolverhampton Libraries.

Canal watch plan for the waterways

STEPS are being taken to ensure historic canals across the West Midlands are kept safe and secure.

A neighbourhood watch scheme is being launched by the Canal and River Trust with West Midlands Police to ensure that the canals remain 'quiet, tranquil places' and to deter crime.

It is called Canal Watch and the increased number of people choosing to live and work by the water will be able to sign up to it to receive police updates and free crime prevention advice.

If successful it will be rolled out nationwide.

To sign up to receive information, create an online account at www.wmnow.co.uk website.

Male voices needed

CRADLEY Heath Male Voice Choir is seeking new members aged from 16 up.

They can go along to Dudley Wood Methodist Church for choir meetings on Mondays from 7.30pm.

No Velo this year, new route in 2019

THE Birmingham Velo will not be held this year, organisers have announced, after the event divided opinion in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year.

The event will instead return in 2019, when it will be moved from autumn to spring and see cyclists tackle a different route.

The ride was held for the first time in September but attracted criticism from residents and business owners due to road closures in parts of the Black Country, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham.

Saboteurs left nails and tacks on the route, including in Bobbington and Swindon, putting the safety of riders at risk.

Details of next year's route are yet to be revealed but will be announced in the coming months, event organisers said.

Around 15,000 riders took part in the 100-mile route last year, in what is believed to be the UK's second biggest closed-road cycling event ever. It raised £2 million for charity.

Participants rode from Birmingham city centre through Sandwell, Dudley, South Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

The 2019 event will take place earlier in the year when there is more daylight, the organisers say.

Jon Ridgeon, chairman of event organisers CSM Active, said: "It was clear to us that some changes would be necessary if the event was to reach its

long-term potential. Together with our partners Birmingham City Council, we are determined to ensure that this wonderful event continues to develop and evolve.

"The move from September to the spring, along with the new route, will provide us with a fantastic, sustainable long-term platform from which to grow in years to come."

Councillor Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "The 2017 event was a huge success for Birmingham. The benefits of major events are well known and our cycling strategy is clear – we want to get the Midlands cycling and we plan for Velo Birmingham to become a key legacy project as we build towards the 2022 Commonwealth Games."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP Austin lands electric cars role

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has been appointed as vice chair on a parliamentary group working on policy for electric and automated vehicles.

The group brings together manufacturers, businesses, media, organisations and experts to share information, promote awareness, and debate about future low-carbon transport technologies.

The Labour MP – who recently visited Westfields, the Dudley-based car company that is developing new electric and driverless vehicle technologies – said he wants the Black Country to benefit from the jobs that these new technologies will generate.

Mind chosen as law firm's charity

A LAW firm has unveiled its charity of the year – and has opted to keep it local.

Higgs & Sons has picked Dudley Mind as its charity for the next 12 months.

Mark Evans from Dudley Mind said: "We are so grateful. Dudley Mind is a local mental health charity that aims to improve and promote recovery and wellbeing for people in the Dudley borough affected by poor mental health."

Higgs & Sons has presented a cheque for more than £22,000 to the NSPCC, their 2017 charity of the year.

Glassboys vs Albion in charity quiz night

THE Glassboys will take on the Baggies in a charity version of popular TV quiz A Question of Sport.

Stourbridge Football Club is hosting the event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice at its War Memorial Ground, Amblecote.

A Charity Question of Sport on April 5 at 7.30pm will feature legends teams from Stourbridge FC and West Bromwich Albion.

Tickets costing £8 are on sale and includes fish and chips supper. Call (01384) 377778 to book. Funds raised will support the Stourbridge hospice.

Full house at Erasure show in Birmingham

POP duo Erasure have sold out their entire UK tour including a concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday.

Andy Bell and Vince Clarke have had a string of hits since the 1980s, including A Little Respect, Sometimes and Victim of Love, and next month release their orchestral new album World Beyond.

Support on their tour comes from Bright Light Bright Light.

Homes, shops and pub planned at brickworks

A FORMER brickworks site is set to welcome a major retail and leisure development alongside 200 homes – despite concerns from retail giants into Merry Hill and Morrison's.

The area in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, that was formerly occupied by Ibstock would include an Aldi, Iceland and Majestic Wine alongside a gym and pub.

The 18-acre scheme will also include space for 365 cars.

However, following a public consultation, concerns were raised by retail bosses about the impact on existing shops.

A statement from intu Properties PLC says: "The application does not properly assess the impact of the proposals on the vitality and viability of the Brierley Hill Strategic Centre or local centres within the vicinity of the site."

A contribution of £30,000 to pay for consultants to undertake an assessment of potential improvements to highway junctions in the area has also been requested by council bosses.

The plans have been recommended for approval, subject to conditions, and were being considered by Dudley Council this week.

Plans were submitted by brick making giant Ibstock alongside fellow applicants Helical Retail and Hawkins.

Jobs

A council document published ahead of the meeting states: "This application would result in the redevelopment of a brownfield site which is allocated for housing and mixed use, positively contributing towards the regeneration of the borough, the delivery of much needed housing, new homes bonus and jobs."

A document submitted to the council on behalf of the applicant reads: "Tansey Green represents a significant opportunity to deliver a mixed-used development which responds to local retail, leisure and housing needs. The scheme unlocks major economic, social and environmental benefits."

The proposed development, if approved, would be constructed on the opposite side of Stallings Lane to Pensnett Trading Estate.

MP leads way for faster broadband



Stourbridge MP Margot James, with Kim Mears from Openreach and Cox & Plant MD Andy Cox and workers

THE vast majority of homes and businesses in the Black Country can now access 'superfast' broadband. Internet speeds have been boosted by a roll-out of the technology by the Government and Openreach.

The Government has achieved its target of ensuring 95 per cent of the country has access to the

faster connection. The level is even higher in the Black Country, including up to 99 per cent in Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

Stourbridge MP Margot James, the Government's digital minister, visited storage firm Cox & Plant in the town, which has benefited from faster broadband. She said the task was to ensure every-

one who has access to superfast broadband knows how to get it. She added: "All they have got to do is contact their provider."

Andy Cox, managing director at Cox & Plant, said superfast broadband had made a huge difference to the efficiency of his company as poor technology had been a real 'barrier to growth'.

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Getting in a state over a visit from US President

It's just criminal to penalise for 31mph

IF a pollster stopped you in the street and asked about your priorities for crime and policing, what would you say?

Violent crime? Putting away more burglars? Getting tough on anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and graffiti?

Or maybe you would reply: "All of these things are important, but I understand that in these days of stretched resources you can't do everything. So what I would really like is to nick motorists for doing 31mph."

I suspect the latter represents something of a minority viewpoint. But last week, just days after recording a 13 per cent rise in overall crime, and a 16 per cent increase in violent crime, the chief constable of West Mercia Police decided the burning issue was petty speeding offences.

Actually I suspect he knows full well that is not the view of the public. But there seems to be a culture among the higher echelons of most of our public services these days that their role is not to implement the will of the people, but to "change our attitudes and perceptions."

If we think burglary or yobbish behaviour is more important than straying fractionally over the speed limit, then we are clearly in need of a bit of education. Worked a treat in the old Eastern bloc.

Indeed, Mr Bangham says he wants to create a climate where the public feels embarrassed rather than aggrieved when being hit with a speeding fine, and up to a point I agree. But I think this approach will do exactly the opposite.

Think about how different attitudes to speeding were 30 or so years ago. Learner drivers were told it was ok to do up to 35mph "to keep up with the traffic", and police usually allowed people a margin of 10mph before stopping them.

But the thing was back then, if you did get caught, it really did mark you down as a bit of an idiot. Everyone knew you were driving irresponsibly and deserved all you got.

If we start penalising every single driver who strays one mph over the limit – which is basically every single driver – that stigma is gone. It becomes nothing more than a lottery, putting the self-centred boy racer in the same bracket as the little old lady on her way to a whisk drive.

Mr Bangham has now sought to "clarify" the recent comments, and assures us officers will not be targeting drivers for trivial speeding infringements after all. Good.

Because if everyone is liable to be done for speeding, where's the embarrassment in that?



Stephen Fry – how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump



Donald Trump – how many demonstrators would turn out anytime to bash America



Lord Adonis – sneering at entire city and dancing on grave of a stricken company?

Playing Trump card – or just snobbery?

STEPHEN Fry is leading the campaign for "the most incredible protest in history" when Donald Trump makes his state visit to Britain. But how much of this anger is genuinely about Trump and how much is simply the latest manifestation of the anti-Americanism which has been festering in British society ever since we lost the War of Independence 235 years ago? It is a sneering snobbery, based on the conviction that European nations are civilised, wise and cultured while America is vulgar, brash and far too powerful. At its heart it is all about old nations envying the success of a new nation. And I wonder how many of the "anti-Trump" demonstrators would turn out at any opportunity to bash America, no matter who was the president. One of our national treasures said in an interview 10 years ago: "When they mock America for its supposed lack of knowledge, irony or sophistication, they are revealing nothing but the pathetic inadequacy and inferiority complex of the British. I absolutely hate that sneering anti-Americanism." The national treasure? Stephen Fry, since you ask.

A READER asks why it is that the latest cooking fad, Himalayan salt crystals, have lain "undisturbed beneath the mountains for one hundred million years" but come with a "best before" date of December 2018.

ONE or two old softies took me to task for suggesting serial burglars should be taken into a field and shot. I wonder whether this week's report on the armed raider known as the Night Watcher who is targeting homes in southern England, terrifying householders and stealing their valuables changes any minds. Simple question: would the world be a better or a worse place if Chummie was no longer with us? Anyway, if he really is a soldier he'll understand

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the concept of the firing squad.

MY RECENT item on sneering at Americans reminds me of a pal who has recently had facial surgery and complains that, because of the stitches, he can no longer sneer with both sides of his mouth. My research suggests that he probably never could. Try it. Curl your lip into the sneeriest sneer you can manage and then try it with the other side of your mouth. It seems most people are one-sided sneerers. The explanation may be that, once you start sneering in childhood, you choose one side and the muscles on the other side "forget" how to curl. I dare say there are ambidextrous sneerers but I have yet to meet one.

I WROTE recently about how a friend and I had different memories of the same event, a trip to the North Pole. A reader is reminded of his amazement in discovering that he had been at the same 1980s David Bowie concert in Milton Keynes as a lifelong friend. It turned out they both remembered the heat, the expensive bottled water and the four-hour delay in leaving the car park. But both had forgotten a significant fact. My reader went home and related the amazing coincidence to his wife who replied with a mixture of bemusement and pity: "Yes, I drove us all down in the car."

DID you spot the symbol the stars wore at the Grammys to show their solidarity with the campaign against sexual harassment? It was a

white rose which also happens to be the symbol of Britain's right-on capital of liberal, gender-neutral and progressive thinking. Yorkshire. Put that kettle on, luv.

YOU may be aware that Lord Adonis, unaccountable architect of the detested HS2 and unelected crusader to overturn Brexit, is not one of my favourite people. He reinforces that status with his infamous recent tweet: "Wolverhampton, political base of Enoch Powell in the 60s and a huge Leave majority, is HQ to just one large company, Carillion!" Strange man. He seems to be sneering at an entire city while simultaneously snarling at Brexiteers and dancing on the grave of a stricken company. They ought to put him in a circus for crotchetty old people. But then that's exactly where he is.

I AM coping with this new online spell-check but it does make some odd connections. Who, in the name of sanity, thinks when I type "some-one's" I may have intended to type "Simeon's"?

YOU have to admire the brass neck of Thomson Cook in blatantly turning sunbeds from a holiday entitlement into a paid-for extra. We were presumably supposed to cheer the travel firm's introduction of guaranteed, pre-hired sunbeds at holiday resorts. 'The end of the battle for the sunbed' crowded one headline. But at £22 a time? It is outrageous. How long before they start charging you for a seat in the dining room?

AFTER the death of Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad was announced, I received a flurry of emails from folk joking that he ought to be buried in a flat-pack coffin. Maybe I'm getting old but it struck me as in rather poor taste.

TALKING POINT



No honey, I'm just being nice – not sexist

"THAT'S £3.50 please sweetheart."

"Thanks love, have a good day."

That could be a scene from any retail outlet at any time of the day. Yet how far can we go with pleasantries?

I ask because walking through the centre of Wolverhampton, I encountered a hand-written notice. "A word of kindness can make someone's day."

The sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with, but not everyone may take your compliments the right way.

One rail commuter took to Twitter to express her disgust over what she called rude and misogynistic behaviour by a rail company official who had the cheek to address her as 'honey.'

Feeling patronised, she condemned the alleged put-down as 'everyday sexism'.

The company's reply – instead of an explanation or apology, she was asked if she'd prefer to be called 'pet' or 'love' next time – was probably ill-advised, but this only serves to act as a warning to others who may be easily offended by terms of endearment.

The company did apologise for what it had intended to be a light-hearted response and, while I do believe the commuter had a genuine complaint to make about the level of service, I personally think she should get a grip.

In an age when we are told that chivalry is dead, I wonder whether the same woman would complain if a 'gentleman' let her on or off the train first or held the door open for her.

From my own point of view, I have no problem with anyone I am dealing with calling me 'sweetheart', for example, they are only being polite after all. I wouldn't express the same platitudes in return as affectionate terms are only reserved for my other half. But their words will be appreciated and I will always be civil – I think please and thank you should be key words in everyone's vocabulary.

However, and this brings me back to the sign in Wolverhampton, who's to say no-one would be offended if I did call someone 'darling' for instance?

As a bloke dishing out niceties to a woman there's always the possibility that your intentions could be misread. If I tell someone their hair looks good that day or their outfit suits them, I would expect most right-minded people to take that as it is, a compliment.

We all like to be told something good about ourselves and I think one ought to tell, during face-to-face interaction at least, whether someone is being sincere or sinister. It's sad that some people can't always see it that way.

MARK SHIPP

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Sensible cycling on A449 please!

I DROVE north up the A449 on Friday afternoon and signalled to turn right into Holbeche House.

I waited until there was a gap in the traffic from Himley traffic lights and started to turn right into the site. I caught sight of a cyclist riding on the pavement coming in the same direction as me, so I stopped to let him past.

I waited for another gap in the traffic then started to turn again. This time I got a bit further across the road when two more cyclists appeared out of my

blind spot going in the same direction as the first one, but much faster.

I had to stop half way across the path of the traffic now coming towards me, who also had to stop or they would have crashed into me. If I had carried on I would have crashed into the cyclists.

Why were three middle aged men cycling on the pavement at that time of day (14:30)?

Did they not realise that they could have been faced with a vehicle coming

out of Holbeche? Why were they not on the road? Why were they riding so fast?

They could have easily met a pedestrian on the pavement coming out of Holbeche round the corner where they met me. Lack of common sense and foresight.

Motorists cannot be aware of cyclists if they cannot see them even if they are wearing high viz jackets.

MOLLIE BERRY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Code of Practice:

Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a

story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Make the bosses pay for Carillion failure

THE Government has a great chance to show that they are the rulers of the country – if they have the nerve.

Sack all of the senior managers and directors of Carillion, pay them up until the end of December 2017, freeze all bonus payments and pensions due, and ban them from working in the construction industry for life.

If they can, try to find a way to recoup some of the money that they have already been paid too.

Then pick and choose new directors and make sure that they work for us – the public.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

We will lose our place at Euro table

WITH Brexit discussion proceeding at a pace the type of deal we are likely to get is more apparent.

The UK will have full access to the single market, for which we will have to pay a fee. We want to be part of the customs union, which might also incur a fee, in addition to which we must also be subject to the European courts of justice. We want close ties with financial institutions, technology and development, free movement of trade and personnel to suit our needs.

It seems to me that the best deal is so close to being full members of the EU that we might as well not bother leaving at all.

If we leave we will lose our voice in Europe, we will lose our rights to veto any policies we find are against our interests and we will no longer have access to EU funding or loans. Will we really be better off outside?

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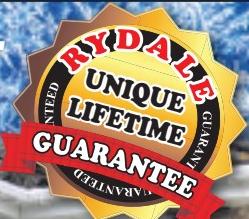
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COMPETITION

All aboard for a Peppa Pig fun journey

PEPPA PIG and her friends are back in a new live show Peppa Pig's Adventure, featuring a new story, lots of songs and heaps of fun!

Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on an exciting camping trip to the woods with George and her school friends, including Pedro Pony, Suzy Sheep and Gerald Giraffe.

With lunchboxes packed and Daddy Pig driving the bus, Peppa and her friends are excited about their outdoor adventure, full of games, laughter and live music!

The happy campers soon settle down to sleep and listen to the gentle patter of rain. Safe and warm inside their tents the excited group can look forward to morning time, when there will be lots of muddy puddles to play in.

The show is coming to a theatre near you and Chronicle readers have the chance to win a family ticket, with seven up for grabs. The show is due to stop off at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8.

Richard Lewis once again takes the helm for this new live stage adaptation of eOne's animated TV series which he directs and has adapted for the theatre.

He has also adapted and directed the four previous Peppa Pig live stage shows, Peppa Pig's Party, Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt, Peppa Pig's Big Splash and Peppa Pig's Surprise.

The show features music from BAFTA award-winning composer Mani Svavarsson. Audiences will enjoy interactive fun, songs and games



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket simply answer the following question.

Who is driving the bus?

Send your entry to Peppa Pig Competition, Chronicle editorial department, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, with your name, address and contact number. Usual rules apply. Closing date: Thursday, February 15.

Tickets are subject to availability. Transport is not included. Tickets are non-transferable. A family ticket may not exceed people and must include at least one adult.

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Guest's talk centres on travellers

Wollaston E TWG



THE well-attended January meeting was presided over by chairman Julie Willetts, who wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Unfortunately, the December meeting, to have incorporated the Christmas party, had to be cancelled. Hopefully a summer party will be held instead.

Apologies were read, followed by the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer gave a favourable report regarding the financial situation, but had a busy time returning monies as a result of the cancelled Christmas party.

The choir was thanked for participating in both the guild's own carol service and that of the Federation at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge. Money collected at the guild carol service and the January meeting will be donated to the Birmingham Teenage Cancer Unit.

Speaker for the evening Sally Gurney gave an exact definition of the term 'travellers', augmented by details of the places they lived, problems arising and solutions to these problems. The interesting talk was followed by a question and answer session after which Mrs Gurney was thanked by the chairman and members.

Raffle prizes went to Joy Cooke, Gill McKenzie and Sue Llewellyn. Pat Archer won the competition. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 13 at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston.

New venue and day as meetings start for 2018

Grange E Guild

GRANGE (E) Guild will hold its first meeting of 2018 in a new venue of St Peter's Centre, Pedmore Lane, Pedmore, Stourbridge on Tuesday, February 13.

Meeting dates have been changed from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday in the month.

There is no speaker for February but guild member Jacqueline Hill will entertain members with a quiz which is always good fun. Small prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The sales table will consist of bottles and cans and there will be the usual monthly raffle.

If any ladies would like to come along as a guest to find out what Townsmen's Guild is all about, they are welcome to come along to the meeting next Tuesday at St Peter's Centre. They will receive a very warm welcome and maybe meet some new friends.

For further information call the secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Ambleside History Society

AT the January meeting, members and visitors watched with great anticipation as Richard Wescott transformed himself from a well-presented gentleman in a suit into a pantomime dame.

He explained the way he completed the different stages of facial make-up he used to give the colourful appearance of a dame.

Giving an interesting account of the years he spent playing this part, he completed his transformation with different sequinned costumes, high heeled shoes, brightly coloured necklaces, earrings and large wigs. His talk was very interesting and entertaining with plenty of jokes and interaction with the audience who joined in whole-heartedly.

The next meeting is on February 14 at 7.30pm, in the Furnace Theatre at the Ruskin Glasshouse Arts Centre, Wollaston Road, Ambleside.

Stourbridge professional artist Geoff Tristram will give a humorous talk titled '40 years watching paint dry'.

Geoff tells his story from a scatterbrained ten-year-old with a colour bio, to the mature professional artist and occasional comedy writer that he is today. His presentation shows work for Penguin Books, Embassy World Snooker, the BBC and his famous Ravensburger Jigsaws. It will feature many amusing anecdotes.

Visitors are welcome for a £3 fee.

The society is pleased to announce it has a new website www.ambleside.org giving more information.

Macabre and humorous tales

Sedgley Local History Society

THE next meeting of the society takes place tonight (Thursday), at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

Popular local historian and author Ian Bott will present an illustrated talk guaranteed to grip the imagination.

He will look at the Black Country's way of death through macabre and humorous stories – many associated with beautiful parish churches. There are inscriptions on headstones and memorials, tales of 'body snatchers' and many anecdotes. Visitors are invited – cost is £1.



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Sea of scarves to honour hero Cyrille

THE Hawthorns rose for its hero as West Brom supporters honoured Cyrille Regis on Saturday.

A sea of scarves were held aloft as the icon's name was sung loud and proud to mark the passing of one of Albion's most-loved sons ahead of the Premier League match against Southampton.

Fans of both clubs were encouraged to bring scarves and were asked to 'Raise them for Cyrille' during a special video tribute a few minutes before kick-off.

Broadcaster and Albion fan Adrian Chiles hosted an hour-long pre-match show with a host of famous faces from across the football community on hand to pay their respects. A minute's applause also took place prior to kick-off inside a packed Hawthorns.

Video clips dedicated to Cyrille were screened and the pre-match playlist was dedicated to his memory.

Cyrille's nephew, and former Al-

bion striker, Jason Roberts, said: "This club meant everything to my uncle, and we shouldn't mourn him, we should celebrate him. This club was in his heart, and every single one of you was in his heart. You are our family as well. Thank you."

Among those to also pay their respects was fellow well-known fan, comic Frank Skinner. He told the crowd: "They say he picked up the ball on the half-way line, in my memory he picked up the ball on Smethwick High Street."

Albion and footballing royalty were introduced to the pitch prior to kick-off.

Ron Atkinson, Viv Anderson, Martyn Bennett, Derek Statham, Rod Wallace, Ally Brown, Len Cantello, Brendon Batson, Ally Robertson, John Wile, Bob Hazell, Andy Cole, Dion Dublin, John Trewick, Tony Godden, Ian Wright, Tony Brown and Bryan Robson were among those to walk out in front of The Hawthorns faithful.

A sea of scarves held aloft in the Brummie Road End to honour Cyrille Regis. (Pic: © AMA/Adam Fradgley)



Crime rise, but officer numbers to decrease

POLICE officer numbers will continue to fall in the West Midlands despite an increase in crime.

The West Midlands force is also set to increase its council tax precept.

The force currently has 6,535 officers and it aims to protect around 100 roles by increasing the policing precept - adding an extra £12 a year to Band D council tax bills for 2018/19.

But this will not be enough to avoid a fall in numbers, with around 6,400 expected to be in place this time next year due to shortfall in funding.

It comes as figures last month showed an increase in recorded crime for the West Midlands, up 14 per cent.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "These figures highlight the shortsighted approach of the Government by continuing to apply real-terms cuts to police forces' funding at a time when the pressures on policing are increasing."

"As the funding West Midlands Police receives from the Government is going down in real-terms, I have been left with no other option than to consider increasing the council tax precept for policing by £12 a year for a Band D property."

Protecting

Mr Jamieson said money raised from the precept would go 'directly on protecting officer numbers', and neighbourhood policing to reduce crime.

He added: "The West Midlands Police has lost £145 million from central Government since 2010. Despite being a highly efficient force, we have still lost 2,000 officers since 2010, meaning we are having to do more with fewer resources."

"Despite the challenges faced, we are determined to get on with the job of keeping the people of the West Midlands safe."



Commissioner Jamieson

Meanwhile, hundreds of suspected drink and drug drivers were caught during the Christmas period, as police cracked down hard on reckless motorists.

Officers from West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group arrested 251 drivers for being over the alcohol limit during December, and 40 for being under the influence of drugs.

The highest alcohol recording was 184 micrograms in 100 millilitres of breath, more than five times the legal limit.

West Midlands PCC David Jamieson said: "People driving under the influence of drink or drugs are a menace on our roads. They put their own and other people's lives at risk."

"I've seen first-hand the damage drink and drug driving can have, that is why I'm pleased that in the latest campaign nearly 300 reckless drivers were caught."

Woman fined £165 for slapping her ex on back of his head

A WOMAN has been fined after she slapped her ex-partner on the back of his head.

Nicola Cole, 26, formerly of Dissrth View, Howey, in mid Wales, and now of Dudley, admitted assaulting Jonathan Green at Llandrindod Wells on September 21.

Prosecuting, Stephen Davies told Llandrindod Wells Magistrates Court that on September 21 there was an incident in Llandrindod Wells. Police were called and found Cole behaving aggressively.

Cole and Mr Green had previously been in a relationship. The court heard that she had been swearing at him and kept stepping in his way and getting close to his face.

As he walked on Ithon Road he felt a smack on the back of his head and saw Cole was immediately behind him. The slap was witnessed by a friend.

In interview, Cole said she could not remember hitting Mr Green but she was angry at the time.

Defending, Gareth Walters said it was the only conviction on her record since 2008 when she was a juvenile. Mr Walters said Cole, who works in a shop, has now moved to Dudley and has not seen Mr Green since. She was fined £165, ordered to pay £30 surcharge and £85 costs.

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Commercial feature

MARKEt leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local



Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured

using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crompton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

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Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

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Bring Parliament to Midlands, says MP

A BLACK Country MP has called for Parliament to be brought to the West Midlands.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has backed calls to move Parliament out of London – to ‘force the metropolitan elite’ to find out what life is like outside of the capital.

The Labour MP called for an example to be set by moving the MPs and Lords out of London.

Mr Austin said: “Parliament badly needs refurbishment and unlike other countries we’ve got government, Parliament, business, finance and the media all concentrated in London, so let’s set an example and move Parliament to the West Midlands in the middle of the country.

“I think that would take pressure off London’s overheated economy and imagine how moving government to the regions could help bring new investment and new jobs to areas like the Midlands.”

“Most important of all, it would force the metropolitan elite ruining the government and the civil service to listen to the rest of us and find out what life is like outside London.”

Mr Austin has previously moved a Parliamentary Bill proposing to move 100,000 civil services jobs from London to the regions.

Artist Corran adds colour to comedy



Artist and designer Corran Green from Kingswinford

ARTIST Corran Green has made a colourful splash on stage with her unique scenery designs.

The 19-year-old from Kingswinford was asked to produce the backdrops for the Fizzog comedy group’s production of The Wicked Wizard of Fizzog.

Her distinctive artwork provides a vivid addition to the successful show whichon tour around the Midlands.

Corran initially became involved with the Black Country production company through a drama workshop in Stourbridge but eventually chose art and design ahead of stage performances.

She said: “I took part in some of the Fizzog shows and my main claim to fame was when I appeared as the front end of a cow.

“It was such great fun working with them. Producing the scenery was a challenge but I tried to create something which reflected their off-beat way of presenting their show.

“Art is my main passion. With my best friend Ryan Suzuki, we are developing our own brand of T-shirts and prints and I am also working on other commissions.”

Mall's new room for disabled shoppers

A NEW Changing Places room has been opened at the intu Merry Hill shopping centre. It means people with severe disabilities can now utilise the new assisted-access toilet and changing facilities installed at the Brierley Hill centre.

The room is intended for shoppers with profound and multiple disabilities but will also cater for people with other physical and non-visual disabilities who require extra equipment and space in a safe and comfortable environment. It differs to intu Merry Hill’s standard and accessible toilets with features that include an adult-sized changing bench and features enough room to accommodate a disabled person and up to two carers. In addition there is also a height adjustable sink and a hoist to help users out of their wheelchairs.

Changing Places on the upper mall near Debenhams was officially opened by Neil Davies, chairman at Dudley Voices for Choice.

Shock figures for children carrying blades at school

SWORDS, axes and machetes are among the 260 weapons seized in schools by West Midlands Police.

Shocking figures show how many blades were picked up from schools over the past six years.

In Wolverhampton, 25 were taken by police, 20 in Walsall, 21 in Sandwell and 14 in Dudley. These include flick

knives, machetes and daggers. The children caught with weapons include three 10-year-olds.

The data obtained by the Liberal Democrats shows the range of reported crimes from schools. They include malicious woundings and even an attempted murder.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said he was concerned some young people were carrying knives as a form

of protection. He said an education programme, involving schools and youth clubs, needed to be rolled out.

Liberal Democrats campaigner Rob Quarmpy said: “No child should be walking down the corridor of a school with a blade in their pocket. These kids are robbing knives from mum’s kitchen drawer or a screwdriver from dad’s tool shed that could, potentially, take a life.”

Street hits the roads to back charity run

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street will be hitting the roads after signing up to a 10k charity run. Mr Street will take part in the Black Country Road Run in and around Halesowen on July 1.

He said: “I am very much looking forward to taking part in this event. Not only will it be a great event for runners but will also raise money for many good causes in the Black Country and beyond.”

Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, added: “It is great to see the Mayor stepping up and taking on this mission for charity. I would encourage local businesses to get involved in the new Corporate Challenge.”

See theblackcountryrun.com website for details.

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Extra free parking is proposed

MOTORISTS are set to get two hours free parking in town centres across Dudley.

One hour free parking is currently available in all council-owned car parks, but council bosses want to increase that to two hours under new plans.

The move is set to be determined by council bosses at a cabinet meeting later this month.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "This has been on our wish list for a long time as we recognise how important this is to people visiting our town centres."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "People will be able to shop for free for longer which is good news for them and for our traders."

Family inspire comic's show

COMEDIAN David Baddele will bring his new one-man show to Dudley Town Hall on April 19.

The Olivier Award nominated My Family: Not the Sitcom arrives in Dudley following its sold out run in London. It is described as a show about memory, ageing, infidelity and dysfunctional relatives.

Tickets cost £25.50 from the box office on (01384) 812812 or at the borough halls.co.uk website.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Curtain set to fall on hopes to revive the Hippodrome

THE CURTAIN is set to fall on the dream to revive Dudley Hippodrome as a theatre.

Dudley Council say the group dedicated to restoring the venue has failed to demonstrate they can raise enough money to make the rescue of the Castle Hill landmark viable.

Officers say the Black Country Hippodrome group failed to meet its targets since being handed the keys just over 12 months ago and that the lease agreement would be torn up, subject to final agreement from councillors.

Members will be asked to formally end the agreement at a crunch meeting today (Thursday) in a move that would kill off the campaigners' takeover of the Hippodrome, which they hope to re-open as a theatre and community venue.

Campaigners were handed a five-year lease by the council but complained it was not long enough to attract necessary funding. Now the council seems to have lost confidence in the group's ability to deliver.

A report said the group have 'failed to submit a funding strategy that provides confidence that funding has been or is likely to be secured for the project'.

The council also said it believed 'legitimate funders

By Richard Guttridge

would accept' a five-year lease on the understanding it would be extended if enough money was raised.

A failed bid for funding to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership appears to have been the final nail in the coffin.

Steve Daniels, from Black Country Hippodrome, was disappointed by the recommendation from officers. He said: "We have insured the building at considerable cost, we have had a security team visit the site twice daily, we have applied for funding from Heritage Lottery Fund. We have not stopped working on the project."

Meanwhile, Dudley College has shown interest in regenerating the site.



At the last Peaky night were, from left, Andrew Smith, Natasia Fernandez and Luke Bailey

Peaky night sells out in hours

TICKETS for a hugely popular Peaky Blinders night at the Black Country Living Museum were snapped up in just three hours.

The event will return to the Tipton Road museum, where much of the popular gangster TV drama is filmed, in September after going down a storm with the show's many fans.

Visitors will again dress in classic Peaky Blinders style, with flat caps and waistcoats for the men and 1920s flapper outfits for the ladies.

Tickets for two shows in September sold out just three hours after going on sale, last week.

There will also be a special Get Closer event in September, where fans will be given a tour of the familiar Peaky Blinders locations, and that has also sold out.

Showcase for young performers

DUDLEY Performing Arts (DPA) is presenting a series of spring concerts featuring the best of the borough's young musicians, singers and dancers.

The DPA spring dance festival is being held in Dudley Town Hall on March 15 at 7pm. Those taking part include school and community dance groups. The DPA contemporary festival is also in the town hall on March 19 at 7pm and features guitar, percussion and keyboard groups. A festival of song follows at the venue on March 22 featuring school choirs and soloists.

There is a drumming day in Netherton Arts Centre on March 24 and the DPA wind festival is at Dudley Town Hall on March 26 and 27. The final concert in the town hall on March 28 features string groups.

Children's author visits

A CHILDREN'S author is visiting the St James's Road library in Dudley to talk about his new book.

Dave Robertson, from Kingswinford, has written a number of books inspired by his border collie Misty. The latest is entitled 'On The Dog Walk'.

Dave's talk is on Thursday, February 22, starting at 2.15pm. The free event will also include dog-themed craft activities for children.

With my story I want to inspire people who are in an abyss because of their teeth. I looked for help from the Denture Clinic and it's been a journey full of professionalism, kindness and thanks go to everyone who played their part in restoring my smile and ability to enjoy life again. ♦

AATTRACTIVE, bubbly, confident and with a contagious laugh – there are simply not enough descriptive words to capture in a single sentence the experience of meeting professional chef, Jacky Standish.

Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has engaged on an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm definitely not dying. Quite the opposite!"

For the dog-lover, who confesses "she doesn't know who to smile at first," the list all about making up for lost time.

It's hard to imagine, this woman who laughs easily and is generous with her smiles, would ever want for anything, but reflecting on recent years she admits "there's plenty of catching up to be done."

Relaxing over a coffee, the former chef and house manager to Hagley Hall's Lord and Lady Cobham, explains that enduring decades of teeth troubles left her battling with some very dark days before receiving

**I could be helped,
I could be free from pain,
I could be transformed,
I could have closure... ♦**

Jacqueline Standish Nov. 2017

to find a restaurant with a menu offering something I could chew," Jacky says.

Jacky, suffered with periodontal (gum) disease for decades. "I was informed by my family dentist I would experience dental issues throughout my life.

"At one point I was attending the den-

tists every three months to try and control the problems, but no matter how I tried, as the years passed I lost more and more teeth," she recalls.

Jacky's confidence plummeted so badly she would walk her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people. "By my mid-50s the erosion on my confidence was as severe as the erosion on my gums," she says,

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her

new smile. "No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth. Out with my dog, I can now speak to people and ask 'what sort of dog have you got on your lead?'"



visit www.denture-clinic.co.uk and follow the link to view Jacky's 'reveal' videos

A transformed Jacqueline showing off her beautifully crafted new smile with her pre-treatment look inset



Jacqueline's new smile with her pre-treatment look inset

you have no front teeth." The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP(UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576.

Summing up her experience Jacky concluded: "I wake up feeling remarkably good, my jaw sore from all the smiling. I came for an initial consultation with Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353] and I could hardly lift my head up.

"Now look at me!"

Jacky, who recently renovated her newly-purchased bungalow, adds: "Everything was finished except a makeover of the front garden. I could have paid to have it done, but decided to invest in my teeth. It was no good having a front garden when

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Thousands are needed to join the 'pink army'



Hundreds of females joined the pink army to take part in the fundraising Race for Life at Himley last year. THOUSANDS of women and girls are needed to join the 'pink army' and make a stand against cancer by taking part in the Race for Life.

A whole host of 5k, 10k and Pretty Muddy obstacle course events are taking place across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham.

In 2017, more than £700,000 was generated by mothers, daughters, sisters and friends coming together to show their commitment to the cause. Now a rallying call has been issued to women and girls to sign up and help to raise more vital funds this summer. The traditional 5k and 10k Race

for Life events, organised by Cancer Research UK, see women and girls donning all manner of pink clothing and accessories to walk, jog or run the courses. While Pretty Muddy sees participants jumping over inflatable obstacles and tumbling down slides to complete this messy challenge in style.

On May 12 there will be 5k, 10k and Kids Pretty Muddy events at Weston Park on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border. The following day, May 13, Race for Life comes to Walsall Arboretum and on May 20, there will be events at Cannon Hill Park in Birmingham. Wolverhampton's West Park will host a 5k Race for Life on June 17. Thousands are expected to descend on Himley Park, for the popular 5k on July 8.

On July 14, Pretty Muddy comes to Cofton Park in Longbridge, Birmingham and following the successful launch of Pretty Muddy at Sandwell Valley Country Park last year, it will be returning on September 29.

Emily Thompson, race manager for Wolverhampton and the Black Country, said: "The atmosphere at Race for Life is just fantastic, full of emotion. Everyone wears a back sign during the event sharing why they are taking part – in memory, or in celebration, of a friend or relative."

• For more information see the raceforlife.org website.

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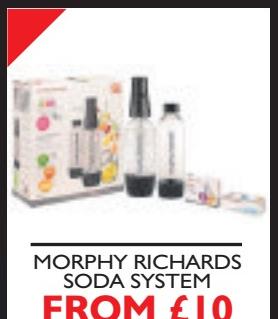
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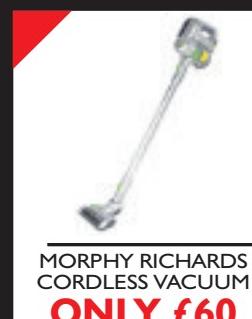
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It's a boy for tennis champion Jordanne

WORLD champion tennis player Jordanne Whiley MBE has given birth to a baby boy.

Her son Jackson Nigel McCarroll was delivered on Tuesday, January 30, at 3.30pm, weighing 7lb 13oz.

Jordanne, from Halesowen, has won ten tennis wheelchair titles, but has taken a break from the sport whilst expecting her first child.

The 25-year-old, first announced she was pregnant in July, less than two weeks after winning her fourth doubles title at Wimbledon, alongside Japanese team mate Yui Kamiji.

Jordanne uploaded a photograph to her Instagram account announcing she had given birth, which featured a photograph of her partner Mark McCarroll, also a wheelchair tennis player, holding their son.

She wrote: "I am so proud to introduce you to our son Jackson Nigel McCarroll, born today at 15:30 weighting in at a healthy 7lb 13oz. I can't believe he's finally here. He's absolutely perfect."

Proud

Jordanne's parents Keith and Julie are delighted to be grandparents. Her father Keith, 69, who is also a former Paralympian, said: "We are really proud of Jordanne. Jordanne is completely over the moon. The baby looks a lot like Marc, which he is really happy about."

Jordanne was 11 weeks pregnant last year when she won the wheelchair women's doubles title at Wimbledon. It was the ninth grand slam doubles title she won. She has also won the Australian Open twice, the French Open twice and the US Open twice. She won the grand slam singles title at the US Open in 2015.



Jordanne's partner and coach Marc McCarroll holds their baby son Jackson and champion Jordanne is pictured enjoying her tennis success

Jordanne has also won a bronze medal at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games. She was awarded her MBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Jordanne was born with brittle bone disease, which her father Keith was also born with.

Her partner Marc, 32, who is also her coach, won the wheelchair British Open in 2014.

Marc, who was born to a family of athletes, used to play for Arsenal. But he was injured in a car accident in 2003 and took up wheelchair tennis two years later.

Jordanne's father revealed she has plans to get back into tennis. He said: "Jordanne is looking at whether she wants to get back to tennis. It will be a hard task but she will try."

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18 JLR's i54 plant biggest and busiest in UK

MORE than 300,000 petrol and diesel engines came off the production line at Jaguar Land Rover's factory on Wolverhampton's i54 site last year.

It makes the plant the biggest and busiest auto engine factory in the UK. The figures confirm JLR's standing as the biggest car maker and auto engine maker in the UK last year, according to industry body the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

The car company made 532,107 vehicles in the UK last year – the third year when it was the UK's number one car producer – while the Wolverhampton factory manufactured 305,907 of its Ingenium diesel and petrol engines.

Investment

It follows massive investment at the i54 site, where the £1 billion engine plant has now expanded to cover two million sq ft. The workforce at the site has now expanded beyond its original target of creating 1,400 jobs.

Jaguar Land Rover has maintained its position as the largest vehicle manufacturer in the UK despite a 2.3 per cent drop from record production highs seen in 2016 at its plants at Castle Bromwich, Solihull and Halewood on Merseyside. Meanwhile it is cutting car production at its Castle Bromwich factory, where it makes many of its Jaguar models.

Join race to Sway as rockers head back

MIDLANDS rockers Ocean Colour Scene will play a show at Wolverhampton Racecourse later this year.

The Birmingham band, which enjoyed huge success in the 1990s, will play a summer gig at the racecourse on August 31. The band had hits with The Riverboat Song, Sway and The Day We Caught the Train. Tickets cost £29.

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More police stations in the Black Country could close

Take-off for air show helicopter



An assortment of ex-Royal Air Force helicopters which will be on display for the centenary event

ORGANISERS of the RAF Cosford Air Show have announced an assortment of ex-Royal Air Force helicopters which will be on display for the centenary event in June.

One of the flying highlights will be the world's only airworthy Bristol 171 Sycamore, making its first appearance at a UK flying display since its restoration to top condition by the Flying Bulls, based in Austria.

The Sycamore was the first Brit-

ish-designed helicopter to enter production and served with the Royal Air Force between 1953 and 1972 in a number of roles, including VIP transport.

Other ex-RAF helicopters appearing in the flying display include the yellow Westland Whirlwind, performing a search-and-rescue display, and the Gazelle Squadron, who will perform a synchronised aerial ballet in their two Westland Gazelle helicopters.

On the ground, a number of helicopters will be parked together as part of the unique RAF100 static exhibition including a Sea King, Wessex and Whirlwind.

Peter Reoch, air show operations manager, said: "Showcasing the world's only airworthy examples of the Whirlwind and Sycamore helicopters is really exciting for us."

The show is on Sunday, June 10. Tickets cost £25.

WEST Midlands Police is to close more police stations under plans which will see officers work out of fire stations and council offices. Dozens of police stations have shut in the past three years but Chief Constable Dave Thompson said there is scope to close even more.

However he insists the level of police bases open to the public will remain the same. A pilot on the proposal has already started with Old Hill Police Station, half a mile away.

It comes as the police force must find savings of £22 million over the next year while battling against a 14 per cent rise in recorded crime in the West Midlands last year including a 22 per cent increase in murders.

There are 23 police bases in the Black Country, eight in Dudley and five in each of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Sandwell – with only some still open to the public.

Policing

The Black Country has lost more than a dozen police bases in the last two years as part of £8.6m cuts.

Mr Thompson said: "We certainly don't need as many police stations to work out of at the moment and so we will, in the next few weeks, be beginning to talk about how many of our local neighbourhood teams could be based with another agency."

In 2016 Wolverhampton saw closures to stations at Heath Town, Grasiley, Oxley, Pennwood Court and Staveley House – the latter in Whitmore Reans has recently been earmarked as a prayer hall.

In the same year Walsall Police Station in Green Lane closed after serving the town for around half a century.

Hundreds of festive drink drivers caught

HUNDREDS of suspected drink and drug drivers were caught during the Christmas period, as police cracked down hard on "reckless" motorists putting lives at risk.

Officers from West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group arrested 251 drivers for being over the alcohol limit through December, and 40 for being under the influence of drugs.

The highest alcohol recording was 184 micrograms in 100 millilitres of breath, more than five times the legal limit.

West Midlands PCC David Jamieson said: "People driving under the influence of drink or drugs are a menace on our roads. They put their own and other people's lives at risk.

"Drinking alcohol then driving is the most dangerous thing a driver can do. I've seen first-hand the damage drink and drug driving can have."

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Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton in the Nesscliffe team of 1957, with Brian Griffiths, front row, centre

I was team-mate of legend Duncan

IT was a tackle he wasn't going to forget in a hurry. When Derek Thorpe's army football team took on their neighbouring regiment, his sergeant-major warned their opponents had one or two tasty players in their side.

Early in the game, the nippy young winger found himself dispossessed by a strapping defender playing for the other side, and decided to pay him back.

"He tackled me early on, and I thought 'I'll have you next time,'" recalls Derek, now 81. "I landed about two yards further up the pitch than I did the first time."

That player was Duncan Edwards. By the time he turned out for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps team, based in Nesscliffe, near Shrewsbury, he already had three England caps under his belt, and Derek remembers being in awe of the power, skill and speed of the great man.

"Him and Bobby Charlton were both in the same team, and they really stood out," he said. "I thought Duncan Edwards was better than Bobby Charlton, and I later read that Bobby also thought he was."

While Charlton would go on to taste World Cup success and enjoy a long, glittering career, Edwards' life would tragically be cut short as a result of the Munich air crash.

Refuel

It is 60 years this week since the disaster tore apart Matt Busby's legendary 'Busby Babes' Manchester United team which had blazed a trail for English football in the newly formed UEFA Cup. On February 6 1958, the chartered British European Airways plane had stopped in Germany to refuel, and crashed as it attempted to take off for its final leg of the journey.

Of the 44 people on board, 23 were killed. Charlton was one of the survivors. Edwards was one of eight United team members who died from injuries sustained during the crash.

"They were such great lads," added Derek. "Duncan was from Dudley, and I was from Dawley, so the lingo was pretty similar. After he had knocked me flying with his tackle, he came over to me, and said 'you all right, kid?'"

Derek, who was a regular with the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) at Copthorne Barracks, says he would regularly play against the Manchester United stars during their National Service in the mid-1950s.

"Because they were just up the road, we would play each other a lot," he said. But Derek recalls the games were often one-sided affairs, with the KSLI lads beating the Nesscliffe team on just one occasion, adding: "They were a cut above the rest," he added.

Also in that team was Brian Griffiths, a full back for Shrewsbury Town. Like many professional footballers from the Midlands, he was posted to Nesscliffe for his National Service so he could continue to keep playing for his club. "Duncan was already there," said Brian, aged 83. "He was a a cor-



The aftermath of the plane crash on the Munich runway 60 years ago



Busby Babe Duncan Edwards



Nesscliffe team-mate Brian Griffiths



Rose Cook-Monk and Dudley North MP Ian Austin with the book of remembrance

poral. He was a smashing lad. He was not aggressive, and his football capabilities were just unbelievable."

Brian says his wife Iris stayed in touch with Edwards's mother Sarah-Anne after the star's death, adding: "She was very proud of him."

To commemorate the disaster, a book of remembrance has been handed over in the German city. It has been presented to the minister of the Church of St Peter near Manchesterplatz, a street near the airport named in honour of the club. It is now on

public display there. Rose Cook-Monk, who has made a film about Duncan's life, visited the scene of the tragedy and witnessed the opening of a memorial garden on the airfield, which is now disused.

She said: "It was emotional to be there and see the departure lounge they all left from," she said. "I didn't want to come out without Dudley being mentioned so myself and the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler came up with the idea of the people of Dudley remembering Duncan."

Musical mischief in Shop of Horrors



Richard Probert as Orin, Matt Colley as Seymour and Richard Homer as Mushnik get ready for Little Shop of Horrors

A NEWLY-FORMED theatre company will be making musical mischief in their first production.

Star-Struck Theatre Company will be showcasing its version of American horror-comedy-musical Little Shop of Horrors at the Dormston Mill Theatre, Sedgley, from February 21 until 24.

Chairman Richard Probert said the play could be enjoyed by all the family. He explained: "We are a brand new amateur theatre company and this will be our first production. We have members from all around the Black Country and we have managed to attract amazing talent."

"The play tells the story of a geeky guy but don't be deceived by the title – it is a light-hearted comedy and is not scary. "There is a bit of a love story in there too."

Matt Colley and Vicki Bull play the lead roles of Seymour and Audrey, with Richard as Orin the dentist. Tickets cost from £10 to £14, concessions at £6, call 01902 546340.

Car charge fund fails to spark any interest

NOT one council in the Black Country and Staffordshire has signed up for a Government-funded drive to install electric roadside charge points for motorists.

More than £4 million is available under the On-Street Residential Scheme, which was launched in 2016. It offers money to pay for 75 per cent of any street charge point installation, granting up to £7,500 per charger.

However, no council in our region has taken advantage of the incentive – despite a 35 per cent increase in the sale of electric cars last year.

Only Portsmouth, Cambridge, Luton, Kettering and Kensington & Chelsea in London have taken up on the Government's offer.

Wolverhampton Council said it has received almost £500,000 from Whitehall in a separate scheme to introduce a charging point network over next three years.

A spokesman said: "We have longer-term aims to look at residential on-street charging points but we feel it is important we first focus our resources on getting the

work done over the next three years."

Staffordshire County Council and Walsall Council said the funding offered was not enough to make the residential scheme viable.

Dudley Council and Sandwell Council said the scheme could be entered as part of a joint partnership with neighbouring authorities, and Dudley was expecting to take part in talks.

Sandwell councillor David Hosell, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "This funding is being discussed at a Black Country transport officers meeting later this month."

By Alex Ross

city centre infrastructure right before looking to expand the network."

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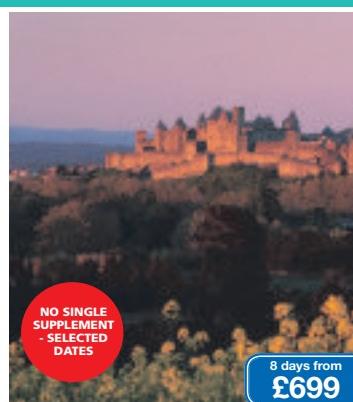
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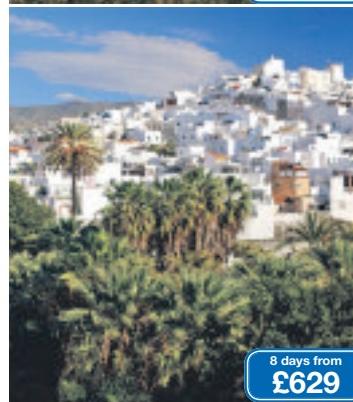
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Bill considers a title tilt for leadership of UKIP



Bill Etheridge has suggested he could throw his hat into the ring to become UKIP's fifth different leader in 19 months

WEST Midlands Euro MP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge could be in line for a fourth UKIP leadership bid – but only if no other candidate comes forward who 'gives a damn', he says.

The West Midlands MEP is one of a number of senior arty members who has called for current leader Henry Bolton to stand down. This follows reports of racist comments by Mr Bolton's former girlfriend Jo Marney, particularly remarks about Prince Harry's fiancée the American actress Meghan Markle.

Mr Etheridge has suggested he could throw his hat into the ring to

become the party's fifth leader in the last 19 months.

He said: "If no one else comes forward who gives a damn about people and who understands this kind of thing, well, we'll see."

Mr Bolton's future is set to be decided later this month by a members' vote at an extraordinary meeting of the party in Birmingham. Mr Etheridge added: "Bolton won't win at the EGM, but if he did win, I'll carry on fighting."

"I'm not against him because frankly he is not worth the effort. But I'll carry on fighting for Brexit and working for the interests of people in this area."

Mr Etheridge quit as UKIP's spokesman for sport last month in protest at Mr Bolton's leadership.



Henry Bolton – leader faces a revolt

Run hailed another staggering success



Malvern Joggers, from left, Ian Walwyn, Vivienne Tolley, Simon Richardson, Alison Priest, Juliette Heron at Mary Stevens Park HUNDREDS of runners braved muddy conditions in a gruelling 10-mile event.

Around 500 people took part in the Stourbridge Stagger race on Sunday, tackling the 'multi-terrain' course. Those leading the event said the day had been a 'success' and plans were already in the pipeline for it to return next year.

Race director Ian Clarke said: "It was a success. The course was testing and there was some tight racing at the front."

"People come back year after year to do it – I think they just like the course. If the marshals are friendly and encouraging the runners appreciate that."

Mr Clarke said the £10 charge for the event was not a bid to make profit.

He added: "It is peanuts really. We do it because we want to give something back to the sport. It will be back next year."

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The fairytale where the ogre is a hero

Niety minutes. Every day. That's how long make-up artists take to transform Mid-Wales actor Steffan Harri into the nation's favourite ogre – Shrek.

The show is back on the road for an extended run, including shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 14 to 25.

The performances follow a record-breaking UK and Ireland Tour, during which it earned rave reviews.

Shrek the Musical is based on the story and characters from the Oscar®-winning DreamWorks Animation film.

The hilarious and spectacular production turns the world of fairytales upside down in an all-singing, all-dancing, must-see musical comedy.

Shrek and his loyal steed Donkey set off on a quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona (Laura Main) from her tower, guarded by a fire breathing love-sick dragon.

The fun gets serious with the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad, a gang of fairytale misfits, and a biscuit with attitude, creating an irresistible mix of adventure, laughter and romance that is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Steffan loves it: "I was over the moon to be given the part. I toured with Shrek and was an understudy to Lord Farquaad. When I got the call to do the lead role this time, I was playing in Les Misérables. It doesn't get much different from that to this. But I jumped at the opportunity. I was keen not to go back to the part of Farquaad because I'd done that. I thought it would be good to have a go at Shrek this time and a few auditions later they gave me the job. I was over the moon."

He laughs when he remembers how he learned he was going to take the starring role. He was at work and it was about 7pm, half an hour before he was due on stage in Les Misérables in the West End. "It was incredible. I went on stage still buzzing from the news. That show was a bit of a whirlwind. But I do love Shrek the Musical. Not only is the music absolutely brilliant and a pleasure to sing every night, the show also has a book that is so funny and witty."

In some respects, Shrek is like a pantomime. It's designed equally with parents and children in mind – with some gags going over the kids' heads and causing mirth among the parents.

"You're right. It's not just for the kids it's for the adults as well. The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing because of the Lord Farquaad material. The kids don't really get that."

Steffan is well-versed in the original 2001 Shrek movie, having enjoyed the best-selling computer-animated fantasy based on William Steig's 1990 fairy tale picture book of the same name. He enjoyed the voice overs from Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and John Lithgow – not forgetting the equally enjoyable sequels.

"I'm 26 now so I was about 10 when it came out. I remember quite vividly going to the Welshpool Solar Cinema to watch it. When I got the job, I went back to watch the film. It really is brilliant." Shrek is a real feather in Steffan's cap.

Some day my prince will come –
Shrek and Princess Fiona



After all, he's still only 26 and is already leading the line in major touring productions. He learned his trade in a quite backwater, Caerleon, in Mid-Wales, near Welshpool.

"They didn't offer drama at Caerleon High School so I looked elsewhere and Theatr Maldwyn came about in year 7-8. I learned a lot from the three teachers there and that helped me massively. That made me look elsewhere and that's when I decided to do drama and gained a place at the Guildford School of Acting. It was a fantastic school and I had the best three years there learning some fantastic skills. Now I'm out working – and that's when the real learning starts."

Steffan is thoroughly enjoying his career. He's striking out, making a name for himself and taking up opportunities that come his way. "It's great and there's such variety – literally, from Les Misérables to Shrek.

"This part is totally different to everything I've ever done before. I have a 90-minute make-up call every day so that I can be fully transformed with prosthetics. After that, I have to put on the costume

**The dads who are
dragged for the
Saturday matinee
come out laughing**

and that weighs an additional 45lbs." Once all that is done, he's transformed and ready to play the ogre. He has created his own interpretation of Shrek from scratch, putting his own stamp on it.

"It's unusual to go out when you're so heavily made up. After the show, I go out of the stage door onto the street and pass people who've seen the show and they have no idea that it was me. But the anonymity doesn't mean I don't connect with Shrek – I do. OK, so Lord Farquaad steals a few scenes, but Shrek is completely believable. He has to be."

Life is moving quickly for Steffan and he's looking forward to starring at a major theatre in Birmingham so early into his career.

"I never thought I'd be leading a show at the age of 26. It's a great honour and I've very fortunate to them for giving me the opportunity. But there's a lot more that I'd like to do. I'd love to do straight drama and TV as well. I've done a bit of TV back in Wales on S4C and I would love doing more and see where it takes me. I'd like to work again in London again too. Working and being happy and healthy is as much as I can ask for and I'm very grateful that I have these opportunities."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Inheaven – turbocharged riffs



Indie rock fans will be Inheaven for arts centre gig

SOUTH London indie rockers Inheaven bring their turbocharged riffs to Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) on Tuesday.

The quartet built around the instant hooks and striking vocals of guitarist James Taylor and bassist Chloe Little were snapped up by the Cult Records label, run by The Strokes' Julian Casablancas.

Their self-titled debut album was released last September including the single Regeneration. The

band have since released an acoustic EP and a new track for the new year, Sweet Dreams Baby.

There's another major indie rock night at the NAC, on Dunkley Street, next Friday, February 16, when one of Birmingham's top bands, JAWS, top a triple bill also featuring Synthetic Recipe and Tinned Astronaut.

Gigs tonight (Thursday) include Nightmares on Wax at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath in support of new album Shape The Future, and satirical rockers Half Man Half Biscuit with The Humdrum Express at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

Got those cigar box guitar blues



Smethwick guitar maker and musician John Wormald – aka Chickenbone John, The Godfather of The Cigar Box Guitar – is back again with Boxstock, the UK Cigar Box Guitar Festival.

Following the success of last year's event at the Slade Rooms, the festival returns to the Wolverhampton venue for more homemade blues-busting guitar on Saturday.

In a time when money's too tight to mention, just like the old days, some hard-up musicians have gone

back to the traditional approach of literally making their own entertainment by making their own instruments.

Seasick Steve helped bring this humble instrument to worldwide attention. As he doesn't do many UK dates these days, here's an opportunity to catch some real roots music on your own doorstep.

Heading the bill are Blackriver Bluesman and Bad Mood Hudson, a heavy metal duo all the way from Finland. After being the success of last year's event, the festival has brought back the Dusk Brothers from Bristol and super-busker Bemuzic from Cambridge.

During the daytime Chickenbone John, pictured, will be leading workshops on how to make cigar box guitars and powerhouse one-man band Hollowbelly will be leading sessions on how to play the cigar box guitar.

During these daytime sessions there will also be plenty of traders selling their handmade instruments, plus open mic sessions for those who feel ready to perform.

It's also an ideal way to find out more about the alt-blues music scene.

Tickets for the evening gig are £14 but admission is free at the Slade Rooms from noon to 5.30pm.

Ballet is a beauty in the Russian style



The curse of a wicked fairy means a beautiful princess falls into an enchanted sleep which can only be broken by a prince's kiss. Enter the opulent world of Imperial Russia for one of the grandest ballets with a score by Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa. The Sleeping Beauty is a highlight from the Birmingham Royal Ballet repertoire on a par with the Nutcracker. The Sleeping Beauty is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, February 24.

Comedy nights with reality TV bridegroom

There's a funny week coming up with several top comedians in the area. Canadian stand-up Bobby Mair, as seen on Russell Howard's Good News and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). Last year Bobby – apparently a distant cousin to Justin Beiber – featured on a reality TV show about his wedding to fellow comic Harriet Kemsley. Bobby And Harriet Get Married was shown on the Viceland channel. Bobby will be back in the region at Bromsgrove Artrix on February 17 and Birmingham Glee Club on March 9. Next Thursday (Feb 15) Alun Cochrane is at the Slade Rooms. A TV regular, Alun is also co-host of The Frank Skinner Show on Absolute Radio. The master of puns and one-liners Milton Jones is at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday.

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CHOICE

Brenda Emmanus

Charles I's Treasures Reunited (BBC2, 9pm)

His merits as a monarch may have been called into question (to put it mildly), but Charles I did have an impressive eye for a painting, acquiring pieces by the finest artists of the past, including Dürer, Rubens, Titian and Holbein, and commissioning works from leading contemporary artists such as Van Dyck and Rubens. Following his execution in 1649, his collection was sold off by Cromwell and scattered across Europe. Charles II reclaimed some pieces, but others went on to be shown in museums across the world. Now for the first time since the 17th century, the key masterpieces have been reunited and are on display at the Royal Academy. Brenda Emmanus presents.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast, 10.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** And They're Off for Sport Relief.
- 6.25** **Pointless Celebrities.** Sarah Millican, Gary Delaney, Jack Carroll, Terry Alderton, Lee Hurst, Arthur Smith, Helen Lederer and Cariad Lloyd take part in a comedy-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show.
- 7.15** **All Together Now.** Rob Beckett hosts as more singers step onto stage for a chance to win a £50,000 cash prize, performing hits as varied as Sia's Chandelier, Oasis's Don't Look Back in Anger, and Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance with Somebody. The judging panel takes the form of 'The 100', a large collective of music experts and performers from all over the UK.
- 8.20** **Casualty.** The day of Blake's trial arrives, and Elle finds herself face-to-face with his victim, Miles, when he is rushed into the ED after collapsing at home.
- 9.10** **BBC News:** Weather.
- 9.30** **Hard Sun.** Grace Morrigan is apprehended by the police and brought in for questioning. Determined to keep themselves and their loved ones from harm's way, Hicks and Renko come up with a scheme that will turn Morrigan's government colleagues against her, but the veteran spook refuses to let herself be outmaneuvered so easily. Meanwhile, a woman's car is found abandoned near a meadow, with what appears to be a suicide note left on the dashboard. Last in the series.
- 10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal and Manchester City v Leicester City.
- 11.50** **Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events on day two of the 23rd staging of the Games.
- 1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. **(R) 12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day one from PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. **(R) 2.15** Escape to the Country. **3.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. **(R) 4.00** Nigel Slater's Middle East. **(R) 5.00** Dragons' Den. **(R) 6.00** Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's tour of the West Country continues as he explores the Forest of Dean. He enlists the aid of local wildlife enthusiasts to track down imposing wild boar, which have returned to the area for the first time in 300 years. He also has a close encounter with a goshawk, a bird of prey that specialises in hunting in woodland, and one that has come to be known locally as "the phantom of the forest".
- 7.00** **Winter Olympics – Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the opening day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
- 8.00** **Dad's Army.** A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea. **(R) 8.30** **Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs.** Paul Murton explores lochs close to the Central Belt, starting on the banks of the Lake of Menteith and ending by climbing Ben Venue in the Trossachs. Last in the series.
- 9.00** **Charles I's Treasures Reunited.** Documentary detailing how the Royal Academy reunited works of art that once formed part of Charles I's substantial collection, but were sold off piecemeal following his execution.
- 10.00** **Film: The Young Victoria.** (2009) In the early years of the queen's reign, she is drawn into a power struggle and falls in love with her cousin and eventual husband. Period drama, with Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend.
- 11.35** **Film: Love Is All You Need.** (2012) A Danish woman recovering from treatment for cancer falls in love with the widowed father of her daughter's fiance. Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm.
- 1.00** **You've Been Framed!** (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. **(R) 6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. **(R) 6.35** Dino Dana. **(R) 6.50** Super 4. **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R) 7.05** Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six. **7.30** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. **(R) 7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. **(R) 8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. **(R) 8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **(R) 9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfarm. **(R) 9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Dancing on Ice. **(R) 1.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **1.20** ITV News. **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.20** Live Six Nations Rugby Union, England v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm).
- 7.00** **Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness presents as more single men enter his "Love Lift" in the hope of impressing his panel of 30 unattached ladies. This time, Josh, a fitness fanatic from Woking, Dan, a volcanologist from Bristol, HR manager Martin from Sunderland, and Iai, an NHS worker from Birmingham will be hoping to find romance. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's couples.
- 8.15** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis ushers more would-be stars onto the stage, as the penultimate round of Blind Auditions arrives. Once again, the singers will be asked to perform in front of coaches Will.i.am, Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson and Tom Jones, who all must appraise their skills with their backs to the performer. Only once they have decided to pledge their support are the coaches permitted to spin their chair around greet the singer in question.
- 9.45** **Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon challenges Jimmy Carr, Eamonn Holmes and Scarlett Moffatt to guess which celebrity homes she has infiltrated.
- 10.35** **ITV News:** Weather.
- 10.50** **Film: Lethal Weapon 2.** (1989) The detectives set their sights on a South African diplomat laundering drug money via his embassy in the US. Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Joss Ackland.
- 1.00** **You've Been Framed!** (R) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. **(R) 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

SATURDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 10**CHANNEL 4**

- 6.00** 3rd Rock from the Sun. **(R) 6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. **(R) 7.10** The King of Queens. **(R) 7.35** The King of Queens. **(R) 8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.00** Frasier. **(R) 9.30** Frasier. **(R) 10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.30** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 2.30** Coast vs Country. **(R) 3.30** A Place in the Sun. **(R) 4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. **(R) 5.35** The Supervet. **(R) 6.30** Channel 4 News.
- 7.00** **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century. The Monmouthshire and Brecon canal is cut off from the rest of Britain's network of waterways by the Black Mountains, and meanders its way through the tranquil Usk valley. Along the way the couple visit the old ironworks at Blaenavon, where children as young as five were once put to work, and lend a hand with some lock restoration work. They also explore the castle at Tretower – which is rumoured to be haunted. Last in the series.
- 8.00** **Village of the Year Final with Penelope Keith.** The four remaining villages compete in the grand final, with residents of each community putting on a special event to showcase what makes their home special. Last in the series.
- 9.00** **Film: Die Hard 4.0.** (2007) Tough New York cop John McClane is sent to escort a computer hacker to Washington for questioning. During this routine operation he stumbles on a criminal mastermind's plan to launch a technological terrorist attack on the US, and is forced to enlist the hacker's aid in foiling the evil scheme. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant, Justin Long and Maggie Q.
- 11.35** **Film: Lonely Are the Brave.** (1962) Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily. **5.10** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.15** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Coverage of the third day's play at the single-frame tournament. **11.00** Film: Green Zone (2010) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Green Zone (2010) **1.15** Minder **2.20** The Car Chasers **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping.

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **(R) 10.40** Pats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **(R) 11.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 12.00** Police Interceptors. **(R) 1.00** The A-Team. **(R) 2.00** The A-Team. **(R) 3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R) 4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R) 5.00** Rich House, Poor House. **(R) 6.00** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** The documentary concludes, offering an insight into the final stages of a puppy's early development. This time, the focus falls on how fun, engaging activities help young canines to improve their ability to learn – and their general state of happiness. Last in the series.
- 7.00** **Cruising with Jane McDonald: Caribbean.** The singer embarks on a series of ocean odysseys, and while she is no stranger to the open sea, having found fame on 1998 BBC TV documentary The Cruise, the mega-cruiser she boards is a far cry from the 600-passenger vessel she is used to. In the opening edition, she and her fellow passengers stop off in Nassau in the Bahamas, where Jane finds solace in the state's oldest baptist church. **(R) 8.00** **The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship.** Part one of two. Following engineers and designers as they construct the Seven Seas Explorer, aiming to make it the most luxurious ship in the world of its size. **(R) 8.55** **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers and Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday.
- 10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Northampton Town and Bradford City v York.
- 10.30** **Film: The Silence of the Lambs.** (1991) A trainer FBI agent engages in a battle of wits with an imprisoned psychopath to gain his help in catching a serial killer. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins.
- 12.40** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** Cowboy Builders. **(R) 4.45** House Doctor. **(R) 5.10** Great Scientists. **(R) 5.35** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 6.00** **The Goldbergs.** **1.30** Toy Story Toons: Partysaurus Rex. **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. **4.45** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Film: Riddick (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **12.30** Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebs Go Dating **4.20** How I Met Your Mother. **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** Film: **11.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **2.45** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.35** Volcano (2009) **6.35** Robot (2004) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** The Fly (1986) **1.00** Young Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon (2013) **3.45** Close

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00** **Sicily.** Wonder of the Mediterranean **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus **10.30** **The Fall: The Wonderful and Frightening World of Mark E Smith.** **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.35** Rock 'n' Roll Smith **2.05** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **3.05** Close
- ITV2**
- 11.15** **Take Me Out 1.10** Mr Bean **1.45** Film: Beethoven (1992) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.30** Film: Valentine's Day (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Valentine's Day (2010) **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Film: The Hangover Part II (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Hangover Part II (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.00** Release the Hounds **2.00** Ibiza Weekender **2.20** The 2012 **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** ITV2 Nightscreen
- ITV3**
- 11.15** **A Touch of Frost 1.25** Film: Columbus: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Midsummer Murders **7.00** The Durrells **9.00** Midsummer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
- ITV4**
- 11.35** **Fishing Impossible 12.15** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. Coverage of today's meetings at Newbury and Warwick. **4.00** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.15** Storage Wars **6.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out. Coverage of the third day's play at the single-frame tournament. **11.00** Film: Green Zone (2010) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Green Zone (2010) **1.15** Minder **2.20** The Car Chasers **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
- E4**
- 11.00** **The Goldbergs.** **1.30** Toy Story Toons: Partysaurus Rex **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. **4.45** Film: The Devil Wears Prada (2006) **9.00** Film: Riddick (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **12.30** Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebs Go Dating **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** Film: **11.00** Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **2.45** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **4.35** Volcano (2009) **6.35** Robot (2004) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) **11.10** The Fly (1986) **1.00** Young Detective Dee: Rise of the Sea Dragon (2013) **3.45** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 11

CHOICE



Tom Garrison

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day, (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show, **10.00** The Big Questions, **11.00** Regional Programme, **12.15** BBC News; Weather, **12.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **2.30** Live Six Nations, Rugby Union, Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm), **5.00** Songs of Praise, **5.35** Celebrity Mastermind, (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Country. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker visit Cambridgeshire, where a project is underway to turn a quarry into a safe red bed habitat for one of the UK's rarest birds, the bittern. Richard Taylor-Jones witnesses a spectacular display of wildlife! Adam Henson meets a young farmer in the New Forest, and Tom Heap discovers how Bill gates is making the most of British agricultural expertise.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville goes to Scarborough hoping to catch up with Mavis, and leaves Leroy in charge of the shop – which soon has an unconscious customer on the floor. Last in the series.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Julienne helps a woman from Pakistan who is unable to have children, but who has found to her shock that her husband is bringing a pregnant second wife into their home.

9.00 McMafia. Alex travels to Moscow on business, unaware of the danger he is rushing into. He has only one way to save himself as he faces a final showdown with Vadim. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action – Newcastle United v Manchester United, Southampton v Liverpool and Huddersfield Town v Bournemouth.

11.35 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.10 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea, **3.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Continued coverage of day three from PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **9.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea, **12.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites, **2.00** Food & Drink, (R) **2.30** Back in Time for Tea, (R) **3.30** The Crane Gang, (R) **4.30** Live Winter Olympics 2018, Coverage of day two from PyeongChang, South Korea.

6.00 New York: America's Busiest City.

Anita Rani, Ade Adepitan, Ant Anstead and Dani Snow look at food consumption in the Big Apple. From dusk until dawn at the New Fulton fish market in The Bronx, they uncover the hidden night time operations, hard-nosed negotiations and price fluctuations of this enormous wholesale operation. (R)

7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the second day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.

8.00 South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness. Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas, including footage of dolphins swimming alongside humans and a falconer flying a goshawk.

9.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product.

10.00 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty. (R)

11.15 Cleverman. Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Warui discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.

12.10 Women's Six Nations Highlights.

12.40 Film: The Deep, (2012) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time, (R) **3.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead, **4.10** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street, (R) **6.35** Dino Dana, (R) **6.50** Super 4, (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution, **7.30** Scrambled!, The Tom and Jerry Show, (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10, (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series, (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School, (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishart, (R) **9.25** ITV News, (R) **9.30** River Monsters, (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday, **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show, (R) **11.25** The Voice UK, (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather, **1.00** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury, (R) **1.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **2.30** The Cruise, Return to the Mediterranean, (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family, (R) **3.30** Tipping Point, (R) **4.30** Regional Programme; Weather, **4.40** ITV News; Weather, **5.00** The Celebrity Chase, (R)

6.00 Dancing on Ice. Love Week arrives at the rink, just in time for St Valentine's Day, Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo once more take their places on the judging panel, as Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield welcome the eight remaining celebrities and their pro-skater partners back out onto the ice.

8.00 Endeavour. Oxford plays host to a veteran film star, in town to visit a local cinema. However, a mysterious death casts a sinister pall over the occasion, and offers the newly promoted DS Endeavour Morse a fresh case to pursue.

Meanwhile, a family visit puts DCI Thursday's hospitality to the test. Inspector Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans and Roger Allam.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.10 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests, (R)

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty, (R)

11.15 Cleverman. Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Warui discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.

12.10 Women's Six Nations Highlights.

12.40 Film: The Deep, (2012) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time, (R) **3.05** Holby City, (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead, **4.10** BBC News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens, (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.00** Frasier, (R) **8.30** Frasier, (R) **9.00** Frasier, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, (R) **1.35** The Simpsons, (R) **2.05** The Simpsons, (R) **2.35** Film: School of Rock, (2003) Comedy, starring Jack Black, **4.45** Film: Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer, (2007) Sci-Fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. The return of the programme offering an insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking. James takes a ride around London on his eye-catching supercar, with an aspiring fitness guru who's looking for £80,000. With her eyes on a round-the-world cruise costing £30,000, an adventurous retiree wants to sell a collection of handbags and jewellery. A car enthusiast contacts memorabilia expert Lawrence about a helmet that once belonged to land speed record-breaker Donald Campbell, and James faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys, (R)

8.00 Lost Pyramids of the Maya. Documentary following a research project that has uncovered the ruins of an ancient hidden civilisation in the jungles of Central America.

9.00 Film: Spy. (2015) Premiere. A deskbound CIA agent provides valuable background support for a dashing secret agent, but has never gone into action herself.

Everything changes, when the spy mysteriously vanishes, and she leaps into action to take his place,

infiltrating the inner circle of a ruthless arms dealer and trying to avert a global catastrophe.

Comedy adventure, starring Melissa McCarthy.

11.25 Film: Friends with Benefits.

(2011) A recruiter sleeps with one of her client's staff, but keeping their feelings out of the arrangement proves tricky.

Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

1.25 The World's Most Expensive Food, (R) **2.20** The Supervet, (R) **3.15** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms, (R) **4.10** Gillette World Sport, **4.35** KOTV Boxing Week, (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location, (R).

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess, **6.10** Whisper, (R) **6.20** The Men Show, (R) **6.30** Milkshake Monkey, (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies, (R) **6.40** Motley, (R) **6.45** Simon, (R) **6.50** Simon, (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig, (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol, (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends, (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam, (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van, (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines, (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol, (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight, (R)

8.45 Noddy: Toyland Detective, (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine, (R) **9.30** Disney Dragon, (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig, (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, (R) **10.25** Football on 5: The Champions, (R) **11.15** Football on 5: Goal Rush, (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors, (R) **12.45** Film: Over Her Dead Body, (2008) Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria, **2.30** Film: What to Expect When You're Expecting, (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz, **4.35** Film: Sleepless in Seattle, (1993) Romantic comedy, with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, **5.30** News Update, **5.35** Film: Sleepless in Seattle, (1993) Concluded.

6.30 Film: Along Came Polly. (2004)

An obsessive man's orderly routine is thrown into disarray when a wildly spontaneous old friend walks back into his life.

Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 Rom-Com LOL Special. Jain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings, (R)

9.00 Britain's Favourite Rom-Com. As St Valentine's Day approaches, a selection of film stars, comedians and TV personalities revisit some of cinema's most memorable romantic comedies, via a top 40 list interspersed with personal accounts of first loves. Celebrating the unique way this particular genre gets audiences laughing and crying in equal measure, and among the actors sharing their thoughts on the films are Seattle's Rita Wilson, and Gregory's Girl star Clare Grogan.

11.55 Film: There's Something About Mary. (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz.

2.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink, (R) **4.45** House Doctor, (R) **5.10** Great Scientists, (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS, (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Film: Mars Madre (2015) **12.15** Singing Musicals **1.15** Horizon: Mars – A Traveller's Guide **2.15** Art, Passion & Power: The Story of the Royal Collection **3.15** Close

ITV2

12.00 Take Me Out **1.20** The Voice UK **2.50** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.40** Film: Jurassic World (2015) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45** Film: Jurassic World (2015) **9.00** Survival of the Fittest **10.30** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Total Ponkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.15 Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** The Durrells **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **11.00** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.45** Blue Murder **3.00** George and Mildred **3.55** Road to Avonlea **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.45 Live Snooker Shoot-Out, Coverage of the afternoon session in the fourth and final day's play, **4.00** Paw Patrol **5.45** Live Snooker Shoot-Out, Further coverage of the fourth day's play at the single-frame tournament, **10.00** Film: Executive Decision (1996) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Executive Decision (1996) **12.45** Minder **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30** Film: Casper (1995) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Film: Men in Black (1997) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Googlebox **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **2.05** Naked Attraction **3.00** First Dates Abroad **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **3.10** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **4.50** Evolution (2001) **6.50** Last Holiday (2006) **9.00** 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (2016) **11.00** Limitless (2011) **1.55** Enough Said (2013) **3.45** Close



Lost Pyramids of the Maya (Channel 4, 8pm)

The Mayan civilisation is now sadly consigned to the history books, but its legacy resonates strongly within our own to this day – whether it's elements of architecture still found within Mexico and Central America, ancient prehistoric sites scattered throughout the region, or in the plotlines of Hollywood movies (for some reason we're preoccupied with misinterpreted Mayan prophecies of armageddon). This documentary utilises exclusive access to the results of a huge scientific research project to learn more about the ancient civilisation, revealing fascinating insights into a people who remained largely hidden within the jungles, and transforming everything we thought we knew about the Maya.

Chicago

Boasting six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and a Grammy, and now starring Academy Award-Winner Cuba Gooding Jnr in his West End stage debut, Chicago is returning to London to celebrate 21 years of standing ovations in style!

This dazzling production has thrilled audiences around the world since 1996, telling the story of nightclub singer Roxie Hart, her rival Velma Kelly and the slick defence lawyer Billy Flynn. With impressive choreography and a show-stopping score featuring the iconic songs Razzle Dazzle, Cell Block Tango and All That Jazz, this production is sure to entertain.

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Departing Saturday 7 Apr

from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

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School of Rock

Dewey Finn, a failed wannabe rock star, decides to earn a little extra cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. Not being a star academic performer nor great at marking essays, Dewey instead decides to create his own curriculum, turning his class into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band.

Based on the Paramount film written by Mike White and starring Jack Black, this rocking stage musical is produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber who has added 14 new songs to the score, which also includes all the original songs from the film.

London Theatre Break

2 Days by Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 7 Apr

from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

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- ✓ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel, Heathrow area
- ✓ School of Rock theatre ticket - Stalls/Circle (matinee performance)
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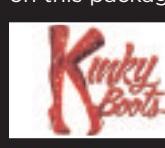
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FILM CHOICES**MONDAY****The Deadly Twin, Channel 5, 3.20pm**

Premiere. A woman springs into action after discovering that the twin brother of her daughter's boyfriend has escaped from a psychiatric institution intent on revenge. Thriller, starring Brigid Brannagh, Timothy Granaderos and Calista Carradine. (2017)

TUESDAY**Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiance, who has become the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

WEDNESDAY**Water for Elephants, Channel 4, 1.25pm**

A veterinary student is left homeless and penniless after his parents' deaths during the Depression. He joins a travelling circus, applying his skills to caring for the animals, and falls in love with the possessive owner's wife as they tend an elephant together. Romantic drama based on Sara Gruen's novel, with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson. (2011)



Water for Elephants, Wednesday, Channel 4, 1.25pm

THURSDAY**A Husband's Confession, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Preacher Evan Tanning's peaceful life as a radio parenting advisor is shattered when the son he never knew he had turns up on his doorstep, jeopardising his credibility ahead of the nationwide launch of his show. However, events take an even more catastrophic turn when Tanning's wayward teenage niece Jamie goes missing. Drama, starring JR Bourne and Allie Gonino. (2015)

FRIDAY**Magic Mike, Channel 4, 12.10am**

A male stripper who is the star attraction in a nightclub teaches a talented young dancer the tricks of the trade, while also introducing him to his hedonistic world. The veteran performer falls for his protégé's sister, but finds his wild lifestyle comes between them. Steven Soderbergh's comedy drama, with Channing Tatum and Olivia Munn. (2012)

We know what you're thinking – not ANOTHER crime drama.

After all, TV isn't exactly short of them, whether they're home grown or being imported from the US or, as is more likely these days, Europe.

There's no wonder that the recent National Television Awards introduced a category dedicated to them – there are just so many being made these days.

Two of them have been inspired by the books of Ann Cleeves. Vera recently ended its more recent run on ITV, and now Shetland is back for its fourth series, two years on from its predecessor.

Although born and raised in England, Cleeves knows the place well, having lived there; she's currently living in Whitby Bay, close to where her Vera books are set.

Some fans have complained that the TV plots don't follow the exact pattern of her novels, but she's relaxed about that.

"The TV adaptations are very often very different - the scriptwriters

cut some characters and add others, cut big chunks of plot and sometimes they even change the murderer!" she laughs.

"But prose and film are different forms. Besides, the book stops being mine every time someone reads it. Each reader brings their own imagination, history and prejudice to the story and each writer has to learn to let go. Adaptation just takes the process a bit further."

One of the secrets of Shetland's success is its far north setting – the Isles themselves are almost a character in their own right.

"I think the viewers are naturally drawn to the place, the setting and curious about what Shetland is like," explains Douglas Henshall, who plays the lead character, DI Jimmy Perez. "And, beyond the location, it's a well written drama which draws you in."

This time around, fans of the books don't need to worry about a favourite story being torn apart by a screenwriter, because this time, it's

a completely original tale that runs throughout the six-part series.

"David Kane has created a compelling and distinctive crime story told across six hours. We are also thrilled to have the brilliant core cast return," says executive producer Kate Bartlett.

Her colleague Gaynor Holmes adds: "Shetland has a loyal following and we're sure they will be thrilled with the surprises we've got for them this time around."

The plot focuses on local man Thomas Malone, who has spent the past 23 years behind bars after being found guilty of murdering teenager Lizzie Kilmuir. Malone has always protested his innocence, and when his conviction is eventually overturned, it's up to Perez and the team to find out what really happened to Lizzie.

Perez speaks to the original investigating officer, Drew McColl. Now retired, he has plenty to say about the case, and explains why, despite DNA evidence to the contrary, he still believes Malone is guilty.



Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

MONDAY**Trauma, ITV, 9pm**

New series. After a bad day at work, Dan Bowker arrives home drunk to discover that his 15-year-old son Alex has not come home and no-one knows where he is. Meanwhile, off-duty trauma surgeon Jon Allerton is at home celebrating his birthday when he is called into work to operate on Alex, who has been stabbed. When the medical team is unable to save Alex, Dan cannot let go of the idea that the surgeon is responsible for the death of his son. Thriller, starring Adrian Lester and John Simm, with Anna King and Lyndsey Marshal.

Julius Caesar Revealed**BBC1, 9pm**

The classicist sets out on a quest to uncover the real Julius Caesar, challenging the received popular view of the Roman emperor. She looks at how he became the autocratic ruler of Rome, the tactics of his military campaigns, his use of spin and PR on his way to the top, and the reasons behind his assassination on the Ides of March in 44 BC. The scholar also examines his surprising legacy right up to the present day, revealing how his influence is still shaping language, politics and people's everyday lives.

TUESDAY**Flatpack Empire, BBC2, 9pm**

Cameras continue to roam the boardrooms and warehouses of one of Sweden's most successful exports since Abba. This week, one of IKEA's newest designers, Hanna-Kaaria Heikkila, wants to challenge mass production by creating an 'imperfect vase' that has the finger-marks of its creator. There's also a visit to the home of the Billy Bookcase to see what it takes to be a supplier for IKEA.

WEDNESDAY**Earth's Natural Wonders, BBC1, 9pm**

New series. Cameras explore some of the most breathtaking places on earth, following the lives of some of the people who call these extraordinary places home. In the first episode cameras follow Yak-herder Thokmaya Lowa as he leads his herd through one of the most treacherous mountain passes in the high Himalaya. Elsewhere, the programme follows members of Inuit communities in the Canadian Arctic as they take part in the hazardous mussel



Trauma, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST**THURSDAY****Children Who Kill, ITV, 9pm**

Juveniles found guilty of murder in the US are given life, with no chance of parole – a hardline approach that in 2015 prompted the American Supreme Court to rule such sentences as 'unconstitutional'. With the system now under review, Susanna Reid travels to the US and talks to young killers about their crimes and life in jail. Susanna also meets the families of victims, to ask how they feel about a possible change to America's approach to juvenile sentencing.

FRIDAY**Requiem, BBC1, 9pm**

Aron Morgan lodges a complaint against Matilda for harassing Davey, and the police are unmoved by Matilda showing them what she believes is a clue to Carys' disappearance. Rose is pushed to breaking point as old wounds are reopened, Ed gets jittery as Trudy gives him the cold shoulder, and Graves becomes increasingly suspicious that he's hiding something. Sylvia reveals the peculiar ancestry of the Dean family, Hal identifies the source of the eerie music on the audiostapes, and Trudy remembers a crucial detail about the day Carys vanished. Psychological thriller, starring Lydia Wilson.

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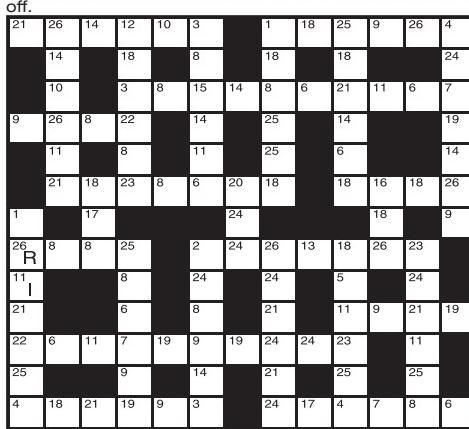
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BRAIN GYM

No.466

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	K	T	2	F	3	J	P	5	Y	6	B	7	Z	8	A	9	L	10	E	11	U	13	V
14	X	S	15	M	16	W	17	C	18	D	19	H	20	G	21	I	22	N	23	O	24	R	26

Quiz

- What was the first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein's first name?
- Which post did David Owen hold in the Labour Government from 1977-1979?
- The best-known form of which game is called 8-ball?
- Which actor played Lord Bellamy in Upstairs, Downstairs?
- Which condition was also called the king's evil?
- Which comic actor's first talking film was Monsieur Verdoux?
- What, in 1959, became the City of London's first new theatre in 200 years?
- What is the name of the 2-day holiday at the start of the Jewish New Year?
- Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father?
- Which partnership wrote My Fair Lady and Paint Your Wagon?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

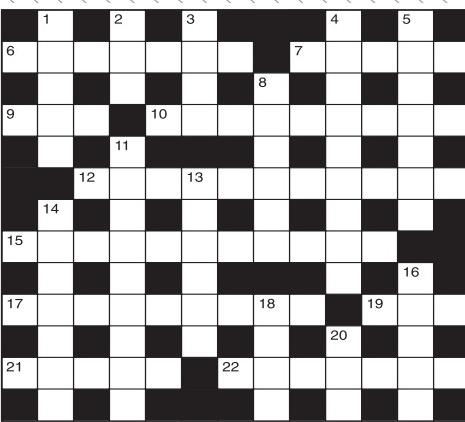
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Keeps earth-bound for certain reason (7)
- Topless figure with a tan? (5)
- & 19Ac. Vegetable to decay at the back of the vehicle (6)
- Decree one should be encircled by heavy artillery (9)
- One man went to mow! (11)
- Where a man keeps his capital and his secrets! (5,3,3)
- Could it show the force of a testament? (9)
- See 9 Across.
- What directors do for the farm animal (5)
- Uneasiness if sea-mail goes astray (7)

Down

- & 16Dn. Retarding mechanism faulty, we hear - manage to escape (5,5)
- See 20 Down
- German flower produces a certain fragrance, one hears! (4)
- I'm having a preference for being unbiased (9)
- See 13 Down.
- America is after the record for this event (6)
- Hospital attendants in whom discipline reposes (9)
- & 5Dn. Pedagogue chose the carol, maybe (6,7)
- Yet an alteration about a football team causes concern (7)
- See 1 Down
- Angela Nolan could show impetuosity (4)
- 20 & 2Dn. Display to put down in the open air (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Simulate (5)
- Pig pen (3)
- Judge (4)
- Venetian boatman (9)
- Serious (7)
- Weekday (6)
- Lay waste (9)
- Trip (6)
- Bill (7)
- Salt water (5)
- Sharp (5)
- Amaze (7)

Down

- Pagan (7)
- Faithful (5)
- Grow older (3)
- Indiscreet (9)
- Of inferior quality (6-5)
- Foot soldiers (11)
- Unceasing (9)
- Snoop (3)
- 20 & 2Dn. Display to put down in the open air (6)

Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	9	8	5	6	7	3	2	1
3	7	5	1	2	9	6	8	4
5	8	2	3	9	4	1	7	6
7	4	9	8	1	6	2	5	3
6	3	1	2	7	5	8	4	9
1	2	7	9	5	3	4	6	8
8	6	3	7	4	2	9	1	5
9	5	4	6	8	1	7	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Bare necessity; 8 Idolatry; 9 Emma; 10 Tender; 12 Letter; 14 Writer; 16 Strips; 18 Idle; 20 Transact; 22 Carried the day; Down: 1 Landseer; 2 Sealed; 3 Beat; 4 Recycles; 5 Ascent; 6 Stem; 11 Rarities; 13 Especial; 15 Theory; 17 Rasped; 19 Dead; 21 Acts.
QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Composer; 9 Gone; 10 Frolic; 12 Preach; 14 Adjoin; 16 Decent; 18 Epic; 20 Inwardly; 22 Comprehensive. Down: 1 Devoured; 2 Propel; 3 Thus; 4 Intrepid; 5 Single; 6 Flan; 11 Consider; 13 Conclave; 15 Occupy; 17 Caress; 19 Poor; 21 Weep.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

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37651
87631

gives a game,
gives a second game,
gives a third game.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



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Pub's cooking up a real storm

With the recent conditions making driving a risk-taking exercise of the highest degree, you want to find some good grub at the end of your quest to make that risk worthwhile.

Outside left you feeling like Jack Frost himself was running his prickly tongue all over your face, so having something hot and good-tasting in your belly was a terrific tonic.

It was a bonus, then, that the venue itself and staff working within the fairly recently opened Cookhouse & Pub offered the same warmth and friendliness as the food.

We had actually tried to go the night before. But, of course, it's a busy time of year and everyone would be out with friends or co-workers... and we hadn't booked. On top of this, they had lost the heaters in one half of the restaurant so were running on a smaller capacity. The staff were very apologetic saying sorry for the wait for tables and trying to fit in an alternative for another night if we didn't have time to wait.

BOOTHES

We took up the offer of a table the next evening and, based on our brief dealings with the staff so far, signs were good that this place had potential. So, 24 hours later it was take two. The restaurant was back up to full capacity and judging by the warmth swirling around the venue they had their heating back on in all corners.

Again we had service with a smile, one of the sizeable booths at the back of the venue giving a bit of privacy to our meal and we were seated near the kitchen to be enticed by the smells floating out from within.

Of note here is the attention given to those who choose to dine alone. Situated next to a Premier Inn on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury – one of the main routes between the M5 and Wolverhampton city



Garlic and chilli prawns, and Moroccan lamb



Modern art – inside the decor is stylish

centre – they must undoubtedly get a lot of business trippers with laptop in tow looking to get a bit of prep done over a good bit of food.

To cater for that, they have comfortable looking 'solo seats' with a large enough table to accommodate plate and 'puter with plugs and adjustable lamps to boot. We hadn't seen this idea before, except perhaps for in London, so the idea was rather novel to us.

First thing was to treat the tastebuds with a starter. We were able to make our selections pretty quickly – one of us pregnant and with a constant hankering for

meat, while the other just overweight and with a greedy yearning for everything fattening.

I had the Moroccan-style lamb koftas, which sat on a plush bed of hummus and mint with fresh pomegranate seeds topped with Middle Eastern spices. The other half had the honey and mustard pork chipolatas with chopped parsley.

We had both picked our mains off the specials board. I had the special mixed grill, which differed from the regular option with the inclusion of tender, delicious ribs that peeled off the bone with ease.

As for the other half, she had the special lamb ragu which was sweetened nicely and came with a healthy side portion of garlic ciabatta.

This time I opted for the salted caramel, brownie and popcorn sundae but my girlfriend decided liquid was the way forward and had a C&P hot chocolate made with C&P mini chocolate beans, a giant marshmallow and whipped cream on top.

Too soon it was hometime. And a mental note was added to come back soon with family and friends.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
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A well-presented impressive home new to the market

In a delightful cul-de-sac position, this outstanding detached property in Montpellier Gardens, Milking Bank, Dudley has excellent family accommodation throughout.

New to the property market and on an ever popular estate, it is for sale through Skitts at £285,000, with viewings being highly recommended.

This extremely well presented four bedroom property is tastefully decorated throughout and benefits from central heating, double glazed and off road parking via a block paved driveway which is flanked by lawn.

This impressive family residence has been well maintained and the accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall with a downstairs WC, a through living room, a fitted kitchen, a utility, a games room (which was originally the garage), four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Further noteworthy features include a cast iron gas stove in the 31ft through living room, oak-style interior doors, a 15ft utility room, built-in wardrobes in three of the four bedrooms and also a pleasant rear garden with a lawn area, a patio area and a timber decking area.

In more detail the property is beautifully fitted throughout, being decorated in appealing neutral shades.

The through living room is carpeted and has an appealing, attractive fireplace housing the cast iron gas stove plus ceiling cornicing, while the dining area has French doors opening out to the rear garden.

The spacious entrance hall has attractive grey slate-effect flooring and stairs and the guest WC off.

The kitchen has similar flooring, plus wood-effect contemporary units with contrasting black working surfaces and contemporary chrome handles, plus splash-back tiling.

Skitts estate agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years. This means the people who own the company, run the company on a daily basis and are responsible for all aspects of its growth, success and professionalism.

DUDLEY £285,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts estate agents

TEL: 01902 686868

EMAIL: sedgley@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

Outstanding detached

4 bedrooms

Tastefully decorated

Popular estate

Excellent accommodation



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Four-bedroomed home in a cul-de-sac

STOURBRIDGE
£350,000

Relatively new to the property market, this impressive modern four-bedroomed detached family home in Fieldfare Road, Stourbridge, lies at the head of a cul-de-sac in a convenient location.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley Estate Agents at £350,000. It is close to amenities including local schools, shopping, the Merry Hill centre and public transport services including Stourbridge Junction and Lye Railway Stations, with direct access to Birmingham city centre.

The property's accommodation briefly comprises a lounge, a separate dining room, a fitted kitchen, a cloakroom/WC and a utility. To the first floor are four bedrooms, the master having an en-suite, and a house bathroom.

Call 0121 585 6667.



Link-detached property has three good bedrooms

SEDGLEY
£259,950

<<<

Being beautifully presented, 12 Sunningdale Road, Sedgley, is a three-bedroomed link-detached family home set in a quiet cul-de-sac.

Situated on the enviable Northway development, it comes with an elevated garden having open aspect views.

It is for sale through Hunters Estate Agents at £259,950.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway with storage off, a lounge and a dining room, a conservatory, an extended kitchen with access to an excellent size garage, three bedrooms and an extended bathroom.

This property has beautifully laid front gardens, a block paved driveway providing off-road parking and a fabulous rear garden.

Call 01902 672274.

SDL AUCTIONS
— BIGWOOD —

15TH FEBRUARY

Aston Villa Football Ground
Starting at 10:30am

AUCTION

154 LOTS

To include properties on behalf of:

Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Associations



1 Bluebell Road, Dudley
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



6 Grazebrook Road, Dudley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £60,000+ (plus fees)



66 Longbank Road, Tividale
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)



106 Osprey Drive, Dudley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £85,000+ (plus fees)



25 Parkway Road, Dudley
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £54,000-£59,000
(plus fees)



26 Bushey Fields Road, Dudley
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)



123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley
2 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £19,000-£24,000
(plus fees)



105 Bunn's Lane, Dudley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £69,000-£74,000
(plus fees)



149 Barker Street, Oldbury
3 Bed Semi Detached House which
may be suitable for Development*
Guide: £99,000+ (plus fees)



100 Blowers Green Road, Dudley
3 Bed Mid Terraced House which
may be suitable for Development
to a Six Bed HMO*
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)

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*Subject to obtaining the necessary planning permission.

SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

15TH FEBRUARY

Aston Villa Football Ground

Starting at 10:30am

AUCTION
154 lots to include

View: 7/2 @ 12.15; 12/2 @ 13.15 & 14/2 @ 12.15



34 Argyle Road, Wolverhampton
3 bed mid terraced house
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 13.15; 12/2 @ 12.15 & 14/2 @ 13.15



Lower Villiers St, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 13.30; 10/2 @ 13.30; 12/2 @ 12.15 & 14/2 @ 13.30



Cavendish Gds, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 14.45; 12/2 @ 10.45 & 14/2 @ 14.45



46 Limes Road, Tettenhall
3 bed mid terraced house
Guide: £50,000+
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 10.00; 12/2 @ 15.45 & 14/2 @ 10.00



11 Beakes Road, Bearwood
4 bed mid terraced house
Guide: £50,000+
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 15.45; 12/2 @ 10.00 & 14/2 @ 15.45



107 Grosvenor Road, Handsworth
3 bed detached house
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 12.45; 12/2 @ 12.45 & 14/2 @ 12.45



34 Fowler St, Wolverhampton
2/3 bed semi detached bungalow
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 11.00; 12/2 @ 14.45 & 14/2 @ 11.00



105 Bunn's Lane, Dudley
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £69,000 - £74,000
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 12.15; 12/2 @ 13.30 & 14/2 @ 12.15



123 Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley
2 bed mid terraced house
Guide: £19,000-£24,000
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 14.15; 12/2 @ 11.30 & 14/2 @ 14.15



173 Great Bridge Road, Bilston
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 11.45; 12/2 @ 13.45 & 14/2 @ 11.45



Longdon Avenue, Goldthorn Park
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £79,000 - £84,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 10.00; 12/2 @ 15.30 & 14/2 @ 10.00



89 Blackhalve Lane, Wednesfield
2 bed mid terraced house
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 15.30; 12/2 @ 10.00 & 14/2 @ 15.30



369 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 11.45; 12/2 @ 14.00 & 14/2 @ 11.45



24 Galbraith Close, Bilston
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000
(plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 14.00; 12/2 @ 11.30 & 14/2 @ 14.00



12 Wolverley Avenue, Penn
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £69,000 - £74,000
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 15.00; 12/2 @ 10.45 & 14/2 @ 15.00



2 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich
2 bed semi detached house
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000
(plus fees)

View: 10/2 @ 12.45; 12/2 @ 13.00 & 14/2 @ 12.45



1A Woodcross Lane, Wolverhampton
4 bed semi detached house
Guide: £50,000+ (plus fees)

View: 7/2 @ 11.00; 12/2 @ 14.30 & 14/2 @ 11.00



3 Giffard Road, Wolverhampton
3 bed semi detached house
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000
(plus fees)

View by appointment with the auctioneer



Malcolm Court, Wolverhampton
Current gross income: £4,500 pa
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000
(plus fees)

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Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price. Any additional fees will be confirmed in the legal pack which can be downloaded from our website, inspected at our offices or in the auction room before bidding. For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve Price please refer to our catalogue or website. For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, our catalogue or website. Please contact our office for further details or advice.



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Sedgley Sandstone Close



We are pleased to offer this one bedroom ground floor apartment. The property offers a good sized lounge, shower/WC, fitted kitchen and double bedroom. With a pleasant rear garden and driveway to the front of the property. Central heating and double glazing. **MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN.** EPC D

£75,000

Dudley Harley Grange



We are pleased to offer this beautifully presented, one bedroom ground floor apartment with double glazing and central heating. Within walking distance of Dudley Town centre. Newly decorated throughout, modern kitchen and bathroom. Having a secure entrance system, the property offers lounge, double bedroom, kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Off road parking. This property come with a very long lease (98 years left) with low service charges at around £500 per year. **MUST BE VIEWED.** EPC D. NO UPWARD CHAIN

£65,000

Tipton Tipton Road



We are pleased to offer this splendid two-bedroom canal-side cottage. In a unique hidden location, the property offers a spacious open plan lounge/fitted kitchen/diner, with downstairs WC. On the first floor there is a shower/WC and two double bedrooms. There is a private courtyard to the rear with brick shed. Double Glazed with efficient modern electric heating, no upward chain. **MUST BE VIEWED!** EPC D

£118,750

Dudley Dibdale Street



••• INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ••• We are pleased to offer this very well presented two bed mid terraced house with double glazing and central heating, having a lounge, separate dining room and modern fitted kitchen to the rear with range style oven/hob built-in. Upstairs has a lovely fitted bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath and two large double bedrooms. Small garden to rear with lawn. Property is to be sold with tenants in the property, currently rented out at £550 PCM. **MUST BE VIEWED.** EPC E: NO UPWARD CHAIN.

£122,250

Milking Bank, Dudley Montpellier Gardens



- Modern 4 bed detached property
- Cul de sac location
- Driveway with double garage
- Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC, upstairs house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath
- Four good sized bedrooms, en-suite shower/WC to master bedroom
- lawn, patio and pond in rear garden
- no upward chain, must be viewed

EPC D

£255,000

Dudley Denbigh Close



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. Situated in a cul-de-sac location, the property offers an open plan lounge/diner and modern fitted kitchen on the ground floor. On the first floor there are three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. The property has double glazing and central heating. With a large drive to the front of the property and a nice rear garden. This property must be viewed! **NO UPWARD CHAIN.** EPC D.

£155,000

Tipton Thunderbolt Way



double glazing and central heating, modern fitted dining/kitchen, lounge with two patio doors and Juliet balconies, two bedrooms, 1 double and 1 single, house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath, allocated parking and secure entry, no upward chain, Must be viewed, Ideal for investors or first time buyers. EPC B

£82,500

Netherton Apline Drive



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. This property offers off road parking to the front with access to the garage, good sized lounge, Kitchen diner. On the first floor landing there are three good sized bedrooms (two doubles one single) and house bathroom. To the rear of the property you have a good sized rear garden. **MUST BE VIEWED.** EPC-E

£165,000

DUDLEY Douglas Road



A three bed semi-detached house on a corner plot with large garden to rear, two reception rooms, downstairs wetroom/WC/shower, fitted kitchen. Upstairs has three bedrooms (two doubles and a single) and a bathroom/WC. No upward chain, EPC TBC

£155,000

TIVIDALE Alexandra Way



We are pleased to offer this beautifully present, refurbished modern one bedroom ground floor apartment. In a cul-de-sac location, with double glazing and modern electric panel heaters. Internally, there is an open plan lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over the bath and a good sized bedroom. No upward chain. **MUST BE VIEWED,** ideal for first time buyers and investors. EPC D.

£61,950

DUDLEY Ripley Grove



We are delighted to offer for sale this second (top) floor two bedroom apartment in this sought after and convenient cul-de-sac location within easy reach of local amenities, schools and public transport links to Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The impressive, spacious accommodation is well presented and comprises ample living space and well-appointed bedrooms. This property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking on a private car park with visitors

£99,950

OAKHAM, DUDLEY Dingle Close



A splendid, extended semi-detached family home in this popular location, a cul-de-sac just off the Oakham Road with parking for at least three car. With downstairs WC and further doors to: open plan lounge/dining room to the front – a through room with doors to the rear garden; utility area leading through to the modern fitted kitchen with breakfast bar and with a family room off. Five good sized bedrooms. Freehold, viewing is highly recommended, EPC D

£230,000

DUDLEY St James Road



A splendid, detached family home on the popular St James's Road, within the catchment area for Castle High School and walking distance from Dudley Town Centre. With off road parking and garage to the front, gardens to front and rear, this amazing property must be viewed to be appreciated. Internally, the entrance porch leads to an entrance hall with stairs to the first floor, and further to the lounge/dining room and breakfast kitchen. There is a utility room with internal access to the garage, £219,950

£219,950

Dudley Dingle Close



Three bedroom semi-detached house situated in the sought after Oakham area. Briefly comprising entrance lobby to hall with stairs to the first floor, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen (with access to rear garden), family bathroom/WC with corner bath and separate shower. Outside to the rear there is a decked area with steps down to the rear garden, single garage and driveway to the front. No upward chain - must be viewed, EPC D

£169,950

Bilton Bay Avenue



We are pleased to offer this modern four bedroom mid-terraced town house in a cul de sac location. The spacious property offers lounge, kitchen/diner and WC on the ground floor. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with ensuite shower/WC and the main lounge. On the second floor there are three more good sized bedrooms (with an ensuite shower/WC to the second bedroom) house bathroom/WC. Having a drive way to the front and a good sized rear garden with shed, alarmed. **MUST BE VIEWED.** EPC C

£175,000

Dudley Hawesley Road



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom semi-detached family home. The property is situated in a cul-de-sac location, having a paved area to the front of the property, the front porch opens into the Lounge with fitted kitchen off, having a square arch to the dining room. From the first floor landing there are doors to two double bedrooms and the house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Outside to the rear there is a patio area leading to the garden with side access to the front. **NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC E, MUST BE VIEWED.**

£120,000

Dudley Dingle close



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. The property offers a driveway with access to the garage to the front of the property. Internally, the hallway leads to two good-sized reception rooms and fitted kitchen to the rear, with access to the rear patio and garden. On the first floor the landing leads to two double bedrooms and a single bedroom with house bathroom comprising bath, separate shower cubicle, WC, wash hand basin. With a spacious garden and patio area to the rear of the property. **MUST BE VIEWED, NO UPWARD CHAIN.** EPC D

£174,950

Wolverhampton Greenock Crescent



A modern, spacious, well maintained ground floor apartment situated just off the Birmingham New Road. Having double glazing, central heating, open plan dining/lounge/kitchen. The property offers secure entry via intercom, the hallway has doors off to the lounge, bathroom/WC and bedroom, with a good sized storage room. The double main bedroom has an en-suite shower/WC off, and the second bedroom is a good sized room. There are pleasant communal gardens to the rear and allocated

£99,950

Dudley Lingwood Hall, St James Road



We are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom purpose built lower ground floor apartment. The property offers a modern fitted kitchen with patio door to the communal gardens and patio area. This leads to a large lounge, with doors to the internal hallway, further doors lead to two double bedrooms; master bedroom with ensuite shower/WC off; and the second bedroom is a good sized room. There are allocated entrances to the apartment. Having allocated parking and secure gated parking. **MUST BE VIEWED.** EPC E: NO UPWARD CHAIN

£114,950

Dudley Leyton Close



A spacious link-detached property in a popular cul-de-sac location with double glazing and central heating. Having off road parking and a garage, internally the entrance leads to a lounge with stairs to the first floor, there is a modern fitted dining/kitchen with conservatory to the rear. Upstairs has two double bedrooms and a further single, with house bathroom/WC. Outside there is a low maintenance garden with rear access to the garage. Within walking distance of Sainsbury's Amblecote, a short drive to the Merry Hill Centre, and good local transport links. Viewing recommended, EPC TBC

£160,000



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Dudley Deepdale Street

A two bed mid terraced house in a popular area, with good schools nearby. Having double glazing and central heating, two reception rooms, downstairs bathroom/WC and upstairs en-suite shower/WC, two double bedrooms, garden with yard to rear. Available now for long term, viewing recommended. Unfurnished, EPC E
£550 PCM & FEES

Dudley Green Road

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Two reception rooms. Brand new kitchen includes oven & hob. Two double bedrooms & further single. New bathroom with shower. Garage & driveway. No pets. May consider Dss with guarantor. EPC D
£575 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY Castle Street

A FABULOUS LUXURY STUDIO APARTMENT. The spacious accommodation is set out for modern living with a double bed, dressing area and a defined fitted kitchen/dining area, a HIGH SPECIFICATION HOTEL STYLE fully tiled and fitted bathroom. All Bills INCLUDED excluding WiFi. The apartment benefits from a secure coded entry. Double glazed, gas central heating, DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE location within walking distance of all amenities including the main bus station. Great for commutes - due to £530 PCM & FEES

Smethwick Park Mews

A modern, ground floor apartment with double glazing, central heating, large fitted kitchen/dining room, two double bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Allocated, secure parking, unfurnished. EPC B
£520 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY King Street

A FABULOUS LUXURY ONE BEDROOM apartment. The spacious accommodation consists of an L-shaped hallway, a SPACIOUS OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/living area with a defined fitted kitchen area, and a lounge, a HIGH SPECIFICATION HOTEL STYLE fully tiled and fitted bathroom. The property benefits from a secure coded entry, double glazing, lifts and secure parking. Double glazed, electric heating, communal Sky dish. Walking distance of all amenities including the main bus station. Great for commutes - due to walking distance of all amenities including the main bus station. Great for commutes - due to close Motorway and Black Country Spine Road links. Deposit payable plus Fees Apply. NO DSS/SMOKERS/PETS. EPC C. BE THE FIRST TO OCCUPY THIS apartment! Deposit payable plus fees apply.

£435 PCM & Fees

Walsall Manifold Way

A spacious, modern one bedroom ground floor apartment, with double glazing and electric heating. Having two off road parking spaces, pleasant communal gardens, the interior is modern and clean - good sized lounge with spacious dining/diner with integrated oven/hob., and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. No DSS, no pets, long term lets considered. Available to view now, first to see will take it.. EPC C
£450 PCM & FEES

Brierley Hill Bell Street

This apartment is a ground floor one bed, and has electric heating and double glazing. There is an open plan dining/kitchen with lounge area, a good sized double bedroom and tiled bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. There are built in appliances in the kitchen. Located in Brierley hill town and short distance walk from Merryhill shopping centre, EPC E, NO DSS, NO PETS, Available Now for Long Term.
£390 PCM & FEES

TIPTON Toll End Road

A professional house share, one room left! Fully furnished. Shared kitchen with appliances, wifi available. Accommodation is over two floors. Short term lets considered, no DSS, no pets. All bills included, deposit and references required. EPC C
£110 P/W & Fees

STOURBRIDGE Murcroft Road

A ground floor, two bed flat, having central heating, double glazing, lounge, kitchen and bathroom with shower. Possible parking, yard to front, unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with guarantor. EPC C
£465 PCM & FEES

Sedgley Brook Street

A six room house share -beautifully converted and within easy reach of Sedgley village. A range of rooms (all double rooms) over three floors with an exclusive loft apartment. All rooms have ensuite WC/shower room and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. Shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer. Rear garden with a shed for storage. Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent, long and short term lets available, no deposit, low admin fees. No DSS or pets. EPC D
£100 P/W & Fees

Bilston Stockton Court

A one bedroom top floor studio apartment. Offering off road parking, the property offers a kitchen, bathroom/WC, lounge and double bedroom. Electric heating and double glazing. EPC G DSS OK, no pets.
£295 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY Limes Road

A two bedroom semi-detached house near Dudley Town centre with double glazing and central heating, having a lounge, fitted kitchen, upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower fitting, low maintenance garden to rear, driveway to front, unfurnished. Available now to view and rent. Dss considered with g'tor & good references. May consider small dog/cat.
£525 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY Bean Road

A first floor one bed flat with double glazing and electric panel heaters. Having a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen, shower/WC.
available now for long term. Available to view. EPC E.
£320 PCM & Fees

Dudley Sedgley Road West

Trinity Property are delighted to announce this beautifully converted six room house share -situated within easy reach of Sedgley village centre as well as access to the Birmingham New Road. A range of rooms (all double rooms) over two floors, all rooms are fully furnished with furniture, this room is exclusive to having a ensuite, double glazing, central heating. There is a shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer, and a pleasant rear garden. Off Road Parking. All bills included in the rent long and short term lets available, no deposit, low admin fees. No DSS or pets. EPC D
£88.84 PER WEEK & FEES

DUDLEY Stone Street

A two bed first floor flat in Central Dudley, situated above shops on Stone St. A communal entrance leads to the staircase to the first floor, the flat has a hallway leading to a lounge with entrance to the kitchen, two double bedrooms and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Electric storage heating, no pets, unfurnished, available now for long term. EPC F
£450 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY Wolverhampton Street

Cellars/storage area to rear of Wolverhampton St, access from Trinity Road. Three main rooms approx 180 sf/ft each. Fenced/gated area to rear.
Available now on a commercial lease for long term.
£150 PCM & Fees

TIPTON Anchor Drive

A modern two bed 3rd floor apartment with double glazing and electric heating, secure entry system, having a lounge/diner with double glazed doors and Juliet balcony to front with fitted kitchen off, two double bedrooms (main with built-in wardrobes), bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, allocated parking and garage. Available to view now for long term let. No DSS, no pets. EPC C
£525 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY Pages Croft

Modern two bedroom apartment. Has open plan lounge & fully fitted kitchen to include built in appliances. Bathroom with shower. Main bedroom with en suite. Unfurnished.
Secure entry with intercom. Allocated parking area. No Dss. No pets. Available now
£545 PCM & FEES

NETHERTON Halesowen Road

A one bedroom ground floor flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen. Kitchen includes cooker. Walk in shower & separate toilet/sink. One double bedroom. Economy 7 storage heaters. Double glazing. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS. EPC F
£340 PCM & FEES

Dudley Nelson Road

Trinity Property are delighted to announce we have this Spacious & Contemporary Fully Furnished Double Room with its own Ensuite & Kitchenette inc Fridge-Freezer & Microwave Oven. NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED Communal Kitchen. Newly Refurbished House near Dudley town centre. Friendly, happy professional housemates, very Low cost to move straight in! Bills Included! Council Tax, Gas, Water & Communal Electricity - Suitable for Professional Tenants. Sorry No DSS. All friendly Working Professional Tenants.
£85 P/W & Fees

Netherton Round Street

A two bed semi-detached house in a popular location, shops and bus routes nearby, having double glazing and central heating, two reception rooms, downstairs bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Upstairs has two double bedrooms, yard and garden to the rear. Available now for long term let. EPC E
£475 PCM & FEES

Bilston Oaklands Court

A modern 2 bed 2nd floor flat, carpeted throughout, fully fitted kitchen with integral appliances, spacious lounge, 2 good sized bedrooms (master with ensuite/shower room), large family bathroom, plenty of storage, secure access and parking, unfurnished, viewing highly recommended, available now.
£525 PCM & FEES

Bilston Woodcross Street

A three bedroom terrace house in popular location. Having entrance porch leading to good size lounge, fitted kitchen/diner. Conservatory. White bathroom suite with bath and shower over. Three good size bedrooms. Enclosed garden to rear. Available to view now. No DSS, no pets.
£565 PCM & FEES

TIPTON Dudley Road

A two bedroom mid-terrace house near by Dudley town. Close to local amenities. Easy access to Birmingham New Road, excellent transport links nearby, double glazing and central heating, having a large reception room/lounge, fitted kitchen, upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower fitting. low maintenance garden to rear/unfurnished. EPC C. No DSS Accepted. No Pets.
£525 PCM & FEES



Bespoke home is full of the "wow" factor

SEDGLEY
£560,000

A bespoke property with the wow factor, 171 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents now at £560,000 with no chain.

An exquisitely presented period detached family home, it is situated on its own private drive in a sought-after, secluded and unique location in Sedgley.

It features an imposing entrance hallway, three reception rooms, a hand-crafted kitchen/diner, attractive guest W/C, utility room, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, a double garage and an enormous gravelled driveway to the front.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Taylors on 01902 880888.



Attractive park home is brand new and ready to move in to

ROMSLEY
£139,950

<<<

New to the property market, this brand new two-bedroomed park home in Daleswood Park, Romsley, Halesowen, comes with a 10-year structural warranty and 25-year warranty on the roof structure.

It is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £139,950.

It has an entrance hall, an open plan living room and kitchen area, a shower room, two bedrooms, allocated parking space and garden areas.

Daleswood Park is close to the Clent Hills, on the outskirts of the village of Romsley between Halesowen and Bromsgrove. A good range of amenities are available in Romsley and nearby villages.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999 www.wakeman-online.com

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Brierley Hill
01384 265265

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01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen



DUDLEY, Hillmeads Drive, Oakham

Wonderfully presented DETACHED property situated in the popular OAKHAM area of Dudley. This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts a spacious entrance hall, well-appointed living room, dining room, kitchen, study, guest W/C, utility, FOUR BEDROOMS, ensuite to master, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, double garage, driveway to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £329,950



LOWER GORNAL, Water Road

Well presented, EXTENDED DETACHED within walking distance of GORNAL VILLAGE. Benefiting from having NO UPWARD CHAIN and drive offering ample parking, this good-sized family home boasts porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, FIVE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, separate W/C, and gas central heating with enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950



COSELEY, Ettingshall Road

This well presented traditional terraced property is an ideal proposition for the first time buyer or someone looking to downsize. With two reception rooms and gas central heating this TWO BEDROOM property also comprises of kitchen, shower room, rear garden, parking and brick built outhouse/utility, as well as being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £99,950



SEDGLEY, Northway

AMAZINGLY SPACIOUS! Significantly extended, gas centrally heated, double glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM semi detached with further potential comprising; porch, hall, store, dining room, EXTENDED 19' 10" lounge, EXTENDED 14' 2" kitchen, walk-in double Gallery living (possibility of 5th bedroom?), four double bedrooms, bathroom. Double garage, extensive corner plot. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £250,000



COSELEY, Coppice Road

Outstanding, EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, recently redecorated, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed Semi-Detached comprising; kitchen, open-plan lounge-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, SELF-CONTAINED 'GRANNY' (or similar) ANNEX/STUDIO (with own bedroom, en-suite, Shower Room, CONTRACTOR'S GARAGE approx. 10'3" x 14'1" with roller door & gated/secured parking). EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950



LOWER GORNAL, Keate Drive, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN. COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED, gas centrally heated, double glazed bungalow with panoramic distant views comprising; hall, lounge, enlarged bathroom, utility room, spanning 22' 4" through 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with comprehensive range of 'arts & crafts' oak style units (double French doors out to garden), two double bedrooms, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £235,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Alley

Situated on corner position in the popular area of Lower Gornal, this DETACHED property is within walking distance of Gornal Village. As well as having gas central heating & double glazing this family home also boasts; hall, living room, dining room, fitted-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, stunning shower room, detached garage, greenhouse, gardens and parking for multiple vehicles. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £234,950



KINGSWINFORD, Astor Road

AN EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED DETACHED BUNGALOW which enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac position, providing a ready to move into layout which includes TWO BEDROOMS and a FULL WIDTH CONSERVATORY. WITH FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and a very pleasant enclosed garden. EPC: D

New price

£219,950



UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

Nearing completion; SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated (underfloor & radiator), double glazed DETACHED house planned to take advantage of sloping site comprising; THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, and to the lower Ground Floor a cloakroom together with 25' 9" through kitchen/living/dining room (spanning the entire elevation) with a superb range of fittings. THREE CAR PARKING TO REAR (Off Vicarage Road). SAP: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000



PENNETT, Woodfield Avenue

An IMPRESSIVE, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is superbly located within a sought after cul-de-sac, offering a BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED and MUCH IMPROVED layout which includes THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. Mining Report Available. EPC D

No upward chain

£179,950



COSELEY, Tirls Hill Road, Hurst Hill

Fantastically situated with open country views to front and woodland to the back, this ideal starter home has so much to offer. As well as double glazing and gas central heating this TWO BEDROOMS property also boasts entrance porch, living room, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, guest W/C, bathroom, rear garden and drive to front. Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £174,950



KINGSWINFORD, Albermarle Road

With an open front outlook and a PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, this EXTENDED SEMI-DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW combines this superb position, with a GENEROUS layout which includes TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS with EN-SUITE. THE LONG DRIVEWAY provides parking and access to the GARAGE. EPC: D

No upward chain

£169,950

PRICE: £164,950



COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

Spacious THREE (potentially four) BEDROOM semi detached home of character. Stylish gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed accommodation includes lounge (with wood burner), lobby, dining room (with wood burner), upgraded kitchen (integrated appliance's), Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite and there is a staircase up to loft space (offering potential for sky light). Landscaped sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £157,000



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive

Superbly presented, intermediate situated on the popular ATTINGHAM DRIVE development in Dudley. Ideal for first time buyers or families, this THREE BEDROOM benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts; hall, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, bathroom, enclosed rear garden & parking. Viewing essential! EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £139,950



WOODSETTON, Marlborough Road

Well proportioned end of terrace property located on a good corner position in the popular Woodsetton. With central heating and double glazing this family home also comprises of porch, living room, breakfast-kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, front and side gardens, detached garage and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Leasehold. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950



LOWER GORNAL, Redstone Way

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Gas centrally heated, double glazed First Floor "coach house" style apartment with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear with gated entry approach comprising; hall (with internal door to integral garage), staircase up to 19 ft transverse landing, 7'1" through living/dining room, breakfast kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS (one with wardrobes), bathroom. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £110,000



TIPTON, Thunderbolt Way

An extremely well presented ground floor apartment located on a popular modern development in Tipton. With entrance hallway and TWO BEDROOMS this property also benefits from open-plan lounge-kitchen, fitted shower room, double glazing and electric heating, parking space and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

ASKING PRICE: £75,000



Extended house has five good bedrooms

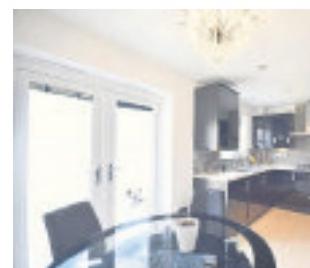
HALESOWEN
£225,000

Having five bedrooms, this extended and extremely spacious family home in Valley Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen, is for sale through Hicks Hadley Estate Agents at a fixed price of £225,000 with no chain.

Having good-sized accommodation throughout, this briefly comprises a reception hall, an extended lounge, an extended sitting room/dining room, a fitted kitchen, a utility area, five bedrooms and a re-fitted shower room to the first floor.

The property has a large driveway, a garage, gas central heating, double glazing and a good-sized mature garden to the rear. The kitchen includes an oven with a ceramic hob and extractor over.

To book that all important viewing, call Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.



Ideal family home has a lot of flexible living space

OLDBURY
£194,950

<<<

This three-bedroomed link detached property in Ditta Drive, Oldbury, really stands out from the crowd.

With flexible living space, this house is an ideal family home.

It is for sale through [loveyourpostcode.com](#) at offers over £194,950.

It is located in a peaceful new estate close to Oldbury town centre.

The property has a front garden with a side driveway for two vehicles.

The first reception room has a bay window. The modern fitted kitchen/diner includes fitted appliances and has patio windows opening to the rear garden, which is half paved and has lawn. The ground floor is completed with a downstairs WC.

Contact [loveyourpostcode.com](#) on 0800 862 0870.



Wakeman

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[teamprop.co.uk](#)



BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS

2017

★★★★★
GOLD WINNER

ESTATE AGENT IN DUDLEY



REDUCED

27 DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY

O/A £649,950

- Exceptional individual detached family home, Set within well tended walled gardens
- Spacious five bedroom accommodation over three floors
- Impressive conservatory, three reception rooms, high quality fittings throughout
- Extensive breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom
- EPC RATING C



2 LINLEY GROVE, GORNAL WOOD

£179,500

- Semi detached house with three bedrooms
- Pleasant & convenient residential cul-de-sac location
- Well maintained and improved accommodation
- Through lounge and dining area, easily maintained gardens
- EPC RATING B



WOODBINE COTTAGE, 73 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HAGLEY

£325,000

- Attractive double fronted end of terrace cottage
- Bedroom one with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved double glazed accommodation
- Car parking to side of property with easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING D



37 DALESWOOD PARK, ROMSLEY

£139,950

- New park home enviably positioned on a hard landscaped plot with ample patio areas
- Overlooking adjoining woodland within a semi rural locality
- Contemporary accommodation with open plan living room, dining/kitchen area
- Two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, shower room with large walk in shower
- Daleswood Park is a small park home site, designated for owner occupiers only



458 HIMLEY ROAD, DUDLEY

Guide Price £100,000

- Character Gornal Wood cottage with footpath access only to the front
- Occupying a level garden plot with potential for extension and improvement
- Approached from Himley Road over an unmade driveway
- Pleasant cottage gardens
- NO PROVISION FOR OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING F



2 LEY RISE

£210,000

- SEDCLEY
- Individual building plot
- Planning consent for a five bedroom detached dwelling
- Planning application number P15/1679
- Popular and established residential area
- Excellent views to the rear
- EPC RATING E



CASH OFFERS ONLY

109 DUDLEY ROAD
O/A £114,950

SEDCLEY

Mid terraced house

Three bedrooms

Well presented & improved

Enlarged kitchen & re-fitted bathroom

EPC RATING E



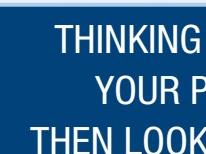
7 BOUNDARY CRESCENT, LOWER GORNAL

£187,500

- Extended & considerably improved semi detached house
- Well maintained accommodation with three bedrooms plus attic room
- Added benefit of a sun room, bar, utility area and sauna room
- Rear garden with decking on two levels and swimming pool
- EPC RATING D



£187,500



458 HIMLEY ROAD, DUDLEY

Guide Price £100,000

- Character Gornal Wood cottage with footpath access only to the front
- Occupying a level garden plot with potential for extension and improvement
- Approached from Himley Road over an unmade driveway
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Montpellier Gardens, Milking Bank

£285,000

1	4
2	EPC C

Louise Street, Gornal Wood

£280,000

1	4
1	EPC D

Clifton Street, Coseley

£157,500

2	2
1	EPC E

South Oval, Upper Gornal

Auction Guide Price £105,000

1	3
1	EPC D

1	2
1	EPC B

Sandyfields Road, Sedgley

£287,000

2	3
1	EPC E

Rosemary Crescent West, Goldthorn Park

OIRO £210,000

1	3
1	EPC E

Blackthorne Close, Old Park Farm Estate

£129,950

1	3
1	EPC TBC

Goodrich Mews, Upper Gornal

£100,000

1	2
1	EPC B

High Park Crescent, Sedgley

OIRO £389,950

2	4
2	EPC D

Byron Croft, The Straits

£215,000

1	2
1	EPC E

Highland Road, Cradley Heath

£170,000

2	3
1	EPC E

School Street, Sedgley

£129,950

2	2
1	EPC E

Kings Road, Sedgley

Auction Guide Price £95,000

2	3
1	EPC D

K.Stuart Swash

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PROPERTY



Lovely two-bedroomed bungalow on market

This two-bedroomed bungalow in High Street, Claverley, is for sale through Dallow & Dallow Estate Agents at £280,000.

This home's front garden is raised and has some plants and shrubs and benefits from a sloped driveway leading to the garage.

The property has a porch, and a living room with an open fire leads through to the dining area.

There is also a conservatory with a WC off, a kitchen, a double fronted

**CLAVERLEY
£280,000**

bedroom with fitted wardrobes and a rear bedroom which is a further double.

The bathroom has a suite containing a WC, wash hand basin, a bath and a separate walk-in shower.

The attached garage has a mezzanine cupboard which

contains the boiler. Outside is a small rear garden which features a small terraced area and a lawned area.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this charming property.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Dallow & Dallow on 01902 420208 or visit www.dallowanddallow.co.uk

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GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £65,000 (+ FEES)



19 KING STREET, LYTHE,
STOURBRIDGE -
GUIDE PRICE
£62,000 - £67,000
(+ FEES)



5 KING STREET, LYTHE,
STOURBRIDGE -
GUIDE PRICE
£65,000 - £70,000
(+ FEES)



89 HAWBUSH ROAD, BRIERLEY HILL
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9 SOUTHBOURNE AVENUE, WALSHAM
GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £86,000 (+ FEES)

MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO THE
BEST CARS ON
THE MARKET

All-new and much improved Subaru XV SUV

By John Griffiths

It's a mystery to me why Subaru isn't a bigger seller in Britain, reaching nowhere near the numbers in other countries including much of Europe.

The company sees itself as something of a niche manufacturer, but while its cars are different (no bad thing) they do have a reputation for reliability and toughness but seem to have lost the public's eye since the glory days of world rally success with the quicker Imprezas.

Its latest model is an all new – and significantly improved – version of its XV sports utility vehicle which in terms of price, all-round competence and driveability is a serious rival to those at the top of this class.

Safest

Built on a new and much stronger platform, the XV is officially the safest car in its class according to EuroNCAP, which carries out crash testing on all new models. It also has a considerably modernised and upgraded interior to make it attractive to buyers.

But if volume sales are the target, it's hard to understand why – apart from politics and bad publicity about diesels generally – Subaru's excellent 'boxer' diesel engine isn't available. And the more powerful of the two petrol versions, the 2.0 litre, only comes with 'Lineartronic' automatic transmission.

Prices start at £24,955 for the entry level 1.6 version up to £28,465 for the 2.0 litre auto in 'premium' specification.

Not cheap, but competitive if you compare it with a bunch of rival compact SUVs, remembering that usually only top spec versions of those have four wheel drive, if it's available at all.

It's those Subaru differences which make the XV one of the most competent, and safe, cars in its class, on or off-road.

It starts with the flat four 'boxer' engine, which aids stability by lowering the car's centre of gravity, plus the symmetrical four wheel drive system developed not only for dedicated off-roaders but also for enabling rally cars to travel at high speeds on loose and slippery surfaces.

It has 220mm of ground clearance and the latest XV has also inherited the 'X Mode' button from Subaru's most expensive Forester and Outback for tackling more extreme off-road conditions. It coped easily with some serious wet and muddy fields and tracks during the test exercise in Gloucestershire.



In terms of price, all-round competence and driveability this car is a serious rival to those at the top of this class

It also includes a hill descent control to automatically use pulses of braking to keep you safe on slippery downhill stretches.

There's a 'hill hold' system to help you on uphill sections too.

The 2.0 litre petrol engine has been heavily modified and improved for the new car, and with 154bhp it's pretty lively on the road – 0 to 62mph takes a fraction over ten seconds, while the test drive produced a not unreasonable 35mpg.

The lineartronic auto is a CVT (continuously variable transmission) and reacts pleasingly quickly to driver demands on the throttle, for example when overtaking.

But one of the biggest areas of improvement in the new XV is in its on-road manners and ride quality. This is in no small part due to a considerable strengthening and stiffening of the new platform – torsional, rear subframe, front suspension and lateral rigidity are all increased dramatically.

Apart from safety – greater protection in the event of a crash – this has benefits that range from more positive steering to improved roadholding. It means a quieter, smoother ride

too: it's a world away from the crashing, lumpy suspension and rock 'n' roll experience of off-roaders of the past. Yet once away from the black top, it is surprisingly well-damped and compliant over the rough stuff too.

One of the principal new safety systems fitted to all XV models is EyeSight, a stereoscopic, forward looking camera system which not only detects obstacles such as cars and pedestrians but can also identify what they are.

It acts like an adaptive cruise control, keeping you a set distance from the vehicle in front. It also alerts the driver to a potential collision and reduce speed, and if the driver doesn't react it automatically applies the brakes (including a full emergency stop if necessary) to either avoid or reduce the impact of a collision. It also helps the driver to avoid wandering out of lane.

The LED headlights dip automatically, and follow steering inputs as you corner, giving better forward visibility.

There is also a rear radar-based system, which includes blind spot monitoring (particularly useful on motorways) and cross-traffic warning – handy when you're reversing out of a parking spot.

The new XV's interior has also gone up a class, with a new instrument panel featuring much clearer and more comprehensive graphics, and a central colour touchscreen for the upgraded multimedia system which includes a DAB radio and full Apple/ smartphone connectivity.

The interior is a little larger than the previous model, with more of a premium feel, with alloy pedals and instrument surrounds supportive, sports-styled seats and soft-touch surfaces with contrasting colour stitching.

Alloy wheels, fog lamps, roof rails, electric windows, dual zone climate control, steering wheel mounted remote controls, adaptive cruise control and multiple airbags are standard across the range.

Premium trim also get satnav, leather upholstery and a sunroof.

The new XV is safer, better equipped and undoubtedly one of the most competent all-rounders in this class.

It's a car with which Subaru could raise its profile in the UK, although it remains to be seen how the current limited range will impact on potential buyers.

Three millionth Qashqai built in UK as Nissan sets sales record



Nissan Europe capped a record-breaking 2017 with the production of the three millionth Nissan Qashqai in the U.K., just over a decade after the category-defining vehicle made its debut.

The landmark achievement by Nissan's Sunderland Plant came as the company posted its best ever full-year European sales, totaling 762,574 vehicles across Datsun and Nissan models. The sales result is an increase of 3.8% from 2016.

The Qashqai played a pivotal role in helping Nissan achieve these results as the model had another record-breaking year, with sales growing 1.2%. The Sunderland Plant produced a record 346,856 units of the urban crossover, 265,520 of which were sold in Europe.

Exceptional sales of the Qashqai helped Nissan achieve a 3.7% European market share, with Spain (9.4% sales growth), France (3% sales growth) and Russia (12.4% sales growth) representing the strongest markets.

The Qashqai is the most successful model in Europe in Nissan's history, with the latest a major refresh of the second-generation model, launched in 2014. Altogether, the Nissan Qashqai has won more than 80 awards, including 19 "Car of the Year" titles.

At the heart of the Qashqai's appeal for more than 10 years has been its position as the ultimate urban crossover. It successfully blends the practicality and desirability of an SUV with the footprint, driving dynamics and running costs of a hatchback.

Award-winning D-Max has attractive offers across range



The award-winning Isuzu D-Max benefits from a number of attractive offers across the product range, including the D-Max Eiger, available from just £199 per month (excl. VAT) on Business Contract Hire.

Available in number of variants, the award-winning D-Max offers maximum performance from refined engineering and manufacturing. Equipped with a trusted 1.9L engine, the iconic Isuzu D-Max range benefits from class leading MPG and a reliable reputation.

Perfectly designed for both work and comfort, the Isuzu D-Max Eiger offers high specifications, reliability and a range of competitive finance options as standard. With 16" alloy wheels, chrome door mirrors and handles, reversing camera and remote control central locking it really takes the meaning of 'standard equipment' to a whole new level.

Isuzu's D-Max finance offers don't stop there, with many attractive quotes across the pick-up range.

Stepping up, the D-Max Yukon is available for just £239 a month (excl. VAT), over 23 months, with an initial rental of £2150.91 plus VAT. A punchy engine also benefits the Yukon, and all other D-Max variants, offering 164 PS and 360Nm of torque.

With low running costs, excellent fuel economy and topping the range, the Isuzu D-Max Blade is available from just £299 (excl. VAT) per month, allowing you to experience a sleek and dynamic pick up over an affordable two-year period.

As standard, each new vehicle comes with 5 years European roadside assistance, 125,000 miles or five-year warranty (whichever comes first), and can achieve a combined 40.4MPG, without the need for AdBlue, unlike other pick-ups in the market.

All offers end on March 31 and are available direct through any official Isuzu Dealer in the UK. For more information on offers, finance packages and dealer locations, visit www.isuzu.co.uk/isuzu-offers

Celebrating 100,000 Insignia orders

Fresh from its success at the Company Car Today CCT100 awards, where it was voted Best Upper Medium car and number two overall in the CCT100 models to meet every fleet need, the Insignia is available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles.

Vauxhall's flagship range also includes a rugged Country Tourer and a forthcoming GSi performance model that will arrive in Vauxhall showrooms in the spring.

The new Insignia range is powered by a portfolio of turbocharged, four-cylinder, diesel and petrol engines from 1.5 to 2.0-litre, combined with a choice of six-speed manual or six and eight-speed automatic transmissions.

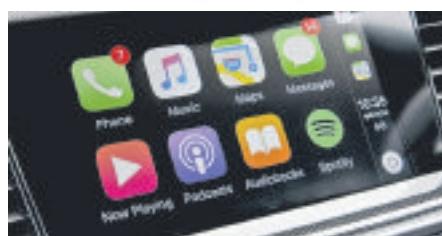
The most powerful diesel and petrol engines are also offered with innovative torque vectoring all-wheel drive.

Buyers not only benefit from numerous state-of-the-art technologies such as adaptive cruise control (which automatically adjusts the speed to follow the vehicle in front according to the selected following distance), IntelliLux LED matrix headlights (which automatically adapt to every traffic situation) and ergonomic seats certified by the back-specialists fromAGR. The new Insignia also offers moderate cost of ownership compared with its competitors in the high-volume and premium segments.

Nine in ten of the new Insignia cars ordered so far come with the optional Navi 900 IntelliLink top-of-the-range infotainment system. The integrated navigation system features an eight-inch capacitive colour touchscreen. Navi 900 IntelliLink is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, bringing the world of smartphones into



The Insignia Grand Sport



Bringing smartphones into the car

the car. If OnStar is on board, smartphones can also connect to the car's powerful 4G/LTE Wi-Fi Hotspot[1] – which enables online audio streaming.

The popularity of the new Insignia in the marketplace is matched by its success in the international media. The new flagship has won prestigious awards such as Carbuyer's Best Large Family 2018, Best Family Car at the 2017 Scottish Car of the Year Awards and

Top Crossover Estate at the 4x4 Magazine Awards. Others top honours include the "Golden Steering Wheel" 2017 in Poland (Auto Świat) and Slovenia (Auto Bild) as well as "Best Car 2017" (Fleet Cars & Vans, Fleet Auto Premium) in Poland and "Fleet News of the Year" (FLEET Magazine) in the Czech Republic.

The new Insignia has also proved its mettle against tough competition in comparison



The Insignia is available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles plus a Country Tourer and GSi performance model

tests carried out by automotive magazines across Europe. To date, the Insignia has won 23 of 40 comparison tests: four wins in Germany (Autostrassenverkehr July 26 and September 20, Auto Zeitung July 26, Auto Bild August 4); three wins in the Netherlands (AutoWeek 29/17 and online July 21, AutoVisie July 6) and the Czech Republic (auto.cz September 29, AutoTIP October 2, auto motor und sport October 17); two in Portugal (Auto

Hoje August 24, Auto Foco December 21), Belgium (Le Moniteur Automobile November 27, AutoWereld December 1), Poland (Auto Świat July 10 and July 17), Sweden (Teknikens Värld August 27, Vi Bilägare January 2018), and the United Kingdom (What Car? August 4, Auto Express January 17, 2018); and one each in France (caradisiac.com), Slovakia (auto motor und sport October 10) and Norway (Motor November 4).

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Inside the so far concept car, is this futuristic cabin

Kia Niro EV is leading firm's electric car charge

By James Baggott

Kia has unveiled an electric Niro SUV and promises it'll have a range of 238 miles when it arrives early in 2019.

Currently dubbed a "concept", the car showcases the brand's new electric vehicle technology and spearheads a charge by the Korean manufacturer to bring a whole range of electrified cars to the roads.

At the CES Show in Las Vegas, Kia said it will offer 16 electrified vehicles – including hybrids, EV and fuel cell EVs – by 2025.

An executive also let slip that the refreshed Sportage, due to arrive in the summer, will be the first to offer a hybrid option.

Although billed as a concept, the Niro EV will be launched to the press later this year and go on sale in early 2019. It is fitted with a 201bhp electric powertrain with power coming from a 64kWh lithium-polymer battery pack.

The range of 238 miles could also be extended to 300 miles, hinted execs. The new Nissan Leaf, by comparison, has a range of 235 miles.

The Niro show car is fitted with an Active Pedestrian Warning System which alerts drivers to pedestrians or cyclists crossing in front of the car.



Looks are a departure from the existing Niro

While the looks on the outside are a departure from the existing Niro, much is likely to make it across to the production car. Inside, though, some of the clever tech might not get the green light.

A Human Machine Interface for the infotainment and heating lets drivers control it by swiping a touchpad area on the steering wheel, while the car can understand voice recognition and, if it does not identify the driver, can shut down key functions.

Kia executives also hinted at a new longer-range electric Soul arriving soon, and said the next Ceed – due in the summer – will have hybrid and electric options, as will the baby Stonic too.

A spokesman for Kia UK said: "Kia is aiming to be a leader in electric vehicle technology and will have 16 electrified models in the range by 2025, many of which will be arriving very soon indeed."

Kia also showcased a world first in-vehicle 5G connection at the show with a real-time connection between Las Vegas and the firm's head office in Seoul, South Korea.

The connection enables users to stream data-heavy content to the car's infotainment system and is likely to be rolled out on future models.



There is lots of clever tech inside the Niro

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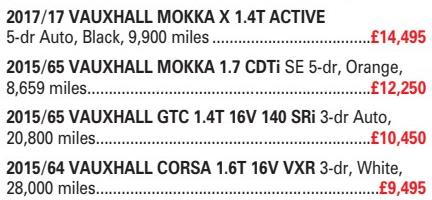
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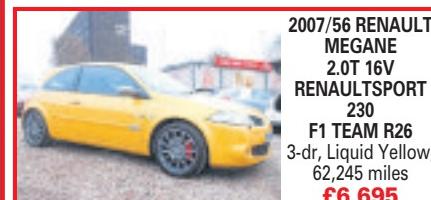
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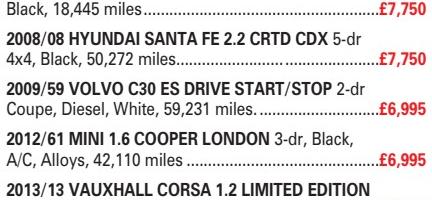
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Stretched Tiguan could be a winner

By John Griffiths

A union between two car genres has produced a model which could be a winner for Volkswagen.

The company's successful Tiguan SUV – its third biggest seller after the Golf and Polo – has been 'stretched' and given the flexible seating from the Touran MPV.

The result is not unique but still rather rare: a seven-seater sports utility vehicle for under £30,000 (or just over £33,000 if you want a full four-wheel drive version).

While SUV-styled vehicle sales have soared by over 20 per cent the past three years, only flagship models are available (if at all) with four driven wheels and even fewer can seat seven. This extra flexibility and practicality in a model already well-placed in the fastest growing market sector, and at a competitive price, would seem to be exactly the right model at the right time.

While the extra two seats in the rear (which fold down individually) are probably best reserved for younger passengers on a long journey, the stretched body of the new Tiguan Allspace means its load-carrying capacity is also considerably increased – up to 700 litres with the two rear seats folded and a whopping 1,775 litres with the centre three seats folded.

At first sight the Allspace doesn't look too dissimilar to the standard, second generation Tiguan. But it is in fact 215mm (almost eight and a half inches) longer and has a wheelbase which is more than four inches longer, too: the clues are in the wider rear doors, to allow easier access to the rear seats, and the slightly higher bonnet, altered to keep the visual proportions.

VW says the rear pair of seats are best suited for people up to 5ft 2ins in height, but

there is a degree of flexibility: the three seats in front slide backwards and forwards, again to enable easier access to the rear but also to create extra legroom there if necessary.

The £29,370 entry-level, front wheel drive only Allspace is powered by VW's familiar 1.4TSI turbocharged petrol engine while the cheapest four-wheel drive model is £33,115 – the proven 4MOTION system is available with the familiar 2.0 litre turbo diesel power plant, 21th 180, 190 or in the flagship version 240Ps of power on tap. There is an AWD petrol option, too, powered by a 2.0 litre turbo unit.

Specification

The test car was the 190PS version mated to the seven-speed DSG (dual clutch) automated transmission, in top specification SEL trim and a price tag of £37,730. It's lively (0 to 62mph in 8.6 seconds) and particularly smooth and quiet even by modern diesel engine standards. With seven electronically controlled ratios, you won't be aware of the gearchanges in normal driving, although it is quick to respond to driver demand – dropping one or two ratios when necessary, for example during a quick overtake.

If 190PS wasn't enough, it has a whopping 400Nm of torque, with all that pulling power available at low revs so it's quick off the mark and cruises quietly and economically at low engine speeds. Its official average is almost 48mpg. It is fitted with a diesel particulate filter and catalytic reduction system, and comes with a CO₂ rating of 153g/km.

As well as the 4MOTION system, honed by years of experience in rallying as well as off-road driving, it has a sophisticated rear differential lock adding to its stability and roadholding on a wide variety of surfaces.

The suspension is a reasonable



compromise between spring travel and stiffness which allows off-road forays and on-road comfort, feeling firm but not harsh.

The all-wheel drive versions also have underbody protection to prevent damage when you get in the rough, plus a modified front end to increase its 'ramp' angle for negotiating obstacles. A dial on the centre console allows the driver to set up the throttle and gearbox responses for on road, off road, snow or for individual settings.

The Allspace comes in SE Navagation and SEL trim with the latest safety and infotainment/connectivity systems, with a quality interior. The SEL test car comes with

traction and stability controls plus electronic differential lock and trailer stabilisation system for those using its towing ability.

As well as multiple airbags, special crash protection systems for occupants and pedestrians are standard, as are lane assist, adaptive cruise control, radar controlled distance monitoring at the front, hill hold and parking assistance systems. There is also a system to prevent misfueling.

The test car also came with the fully digital dash, with active info display which can be customised by the driver, as well as the central colour touchscreen. Three zone air conditioning, an electric tailgate, panoramic

sunroof, electric windows and mirrors, automatic lights and wipers, satnav, multi-device interface, Bluetooth and a DAB/CD stereo are also standard.

Industry pundits believe many owners, after their first SUV experience, are looking for four instead of two wheel drive for their next car – not so much because they're heading for the hills but for peace of mind when the weather turns bad.

The Tiguan Allspace offers that choice, but with the added practicality of either seven seats or a cavernous loadspace, and at a competitive price in a market niche with not too many competitors.

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Excessive Bentayga can be practical

By Ian Donaldson

Here's a car that combines pointless excess and surprising practicality better than almost anything else on the road.

But you can do something about the excess before you buy and the practicality is still there for the taking for the length of your ownership.

First, the excess. After choosing the diesel engined version of Bentley's ship-sized and high selling Bentayga SUV you'll be faced with an options' list as long as a well tailored arm.

One of the boxes you can tick adds £2,995 to the bottom line for a dash mounted Breitling clock with dark mother of pearl face and – not joking here – ringed with eight small diamonds. So it's both naff and impossible to read at the same time.

So, with nearly three grand back in your pocket, we proceed to the practicality part of the Bentayga equation.

Choose diesel as fuel and you save £26,900 over the cost of the full fat 12-cylinder petrol model, losing only modestly in the performance stakes. You may find that 168mph and zero to 62mph in 4.8 seconds is sufficient after all.

It certainly feels plenty fast enough, if not as bonkers quick as the petrol W12. Quite near the just announced V8 petrol Bentayga, though, and a minuscule £400 cheaper.

Your respect for the performance will then turn to astonishment when you glance the fuel consumption readout – over 500 miles the Bentayga diesel on test managed 31.6mpg, and touched 40mpg-plus on a gentle motorway run.

For such a huge and heavy car that's close to miraculous and made the 17.6mpg from the



If you opt for a Breitling clock, add on £2,995 to the cost



Despite its size, there's not much legroom in the rear

W12 driven some months earlier seem utterly dippy. It means an easy 500 miles per 18 gallon tankful and much less messing about at the pumps for the Bentley's time pressed owner. And more time to enjoy driving a car that does a fine job of defying physics by making its 2.5 tonnes feel like a lighter vehicle when corners arrive – although never like a smaller one.



This is a very big machine, casting shadows over everything else in the car park

This is a very big machine, casting shadows over almost anything else in the car park and wide enough to make city driving an exercise in width judgement as the grocery deliveries van hurls towards you at must-make-the-slot speed.

In its element (wide, open road) the Bentayga is a near perfect way to transport four lucky people as far as they'd like to go,

cocooned in leather lined luxury in a cockpit that makes you feel special every time the doors pull themselves closed the last few millimetres, thus saving you the bother of slamming them shut.

Despite its gargantuan bulk the Bentayga is merely very adequately spacious in the rear – not leg-stretchingly roomy – and the boot, while regularly shaped is modestly sized

against something like ... a Skoda Superb. Bentley ownership is higher on the feel good factor and the Bentayga does not disappoint, especially with a list of optional extras that extends from TV screens in the rear (£965) to ventilated front seats with massage function (£2,805).

And that clock, if you must.
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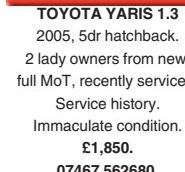
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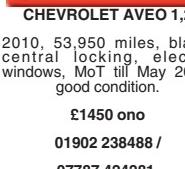
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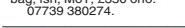
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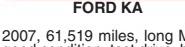
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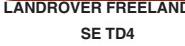
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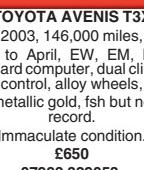
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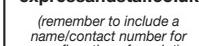
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Injured Gavin sees title fight put back

FRANKIE Gavin's IBO Welterweight World title fight with Bethuel Ushona has been pushed back a month after the Birmingham fighter suffered an ankle injury in training. The February 23 fight against the Namibian for the vacant title, at the Genting Arena in Birmingham, has been rescheduled to March 24.

Tickets will be honoured from the original date and the undercard – which features the likes of Josh Stokes and includes two other IBO title fights – is expected to be relatively unaffected.

Gavin's trainer Dean Edwards admitted the injury – sustained during a training camp in Ireland – had been a setback but insisted it was merely a minor one and that Frankie would be fighting fit for the new date. He said: "Frankie has sprained the ligaments in his left ankle and been advised by medics to cease training for seven to ten days. But it's a minor problem."

Gavin said: "I'm gutted but I'll be back. There is no way I'm letting myself or anyone else down."

Selby on cue for an exhibition maximum

WORLD snooker champ Mark Selby racked up a 147 break when he checked in at Stourbridge Snooker Club. The world number one played 10 frames against local players and two raffle winners and knocked in a further three century breaks, including a 132 to kick off the evening.

Local snooker league stalwart Kevin Franklin, who helped organise the event, almost stole the headlines in the final frame of the evening when he lost on the black against the cue man dubbed 'The Jester from Leicester'.

But while his potting skills drew plenty of plaudits, it was his all-round demeanour that really impressed Franklin. "Mark was a class act, not just on the table but off it as well," added Franklin. "I have been to a lot of these exhibition nights and organised a fair few, but this was the best one by far."

"He had time for everyone and was still there around midnight signing autographs and having pictures taken. Initially he had been due to play eight frames but when he turned up he said he would do a bit of a question and answer session and play a couple extra frames if we wanted."

Fundraising game for club mascot's family

MASCOTS will do battle at Halesowen Town FC for a match in memory of Albion mascot Richard Eades.

Richard, who dressed as Albi Bird, died of a heart attack on Boxing Day, aged 42. Fellow mascot and friend Dave Challenor, who donned the Baggie Bird costume, has organised the match. The mascots' clash will provide the curtain-raiser for match between a West Brom All-Stars team led by former midfielder Andy Johnson and Boing FC, the Albion supporters' team father-of-two Eades used to play for.

Dave is confident mascots from Wolves, Walsall, Birmingham City, Manchester City, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City, Yeovil Town, Hartlepool, and Exeter City will all join in the match.

Hundreds of people have already registered an interest in coming along on April 29, part of a whole day devoted to fundraising for the Eades family. It starts at 11am. It will start with a nine-a-side tournament featuring teams from all aspects of Richard's life.

Phenomenal footballer – and an even better man

CYRILLE REGIS 1958-2018

By David Cosgrove

"He didn't go out of his way to fight any crusades but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody."

but he changed football by being what he was, a role model to everybody. He conducted himself the right way both on and off the field."

Brighton manager Chris Hughton said: "He leaves a lasting legacy because he played in a very difficult era for black players and had a big impact on the lives of those black players who followed him."

Now a Sky Sports presenter, Chris Kamara played in that same era as Cyrille and said the striker had blazed a trail for others to follow. Kamara said: "He was an icon to so many players. What a man, what a legend."

Broadcaster Adrian Chiles said Cyrille became his first hero after he saw him at The Hawthorns back in 1977. Now aged 50, Chiles said: "Cyrille was my first hero and I thought he was indestructible so it makes you realise we are all mortal. He transcended football. There have been so many footballers across the world but very few you can name that transcend the game."

"It's a privilege to have known him."

Bob Taylor, who followed in Cyrille's footsteps as an Albion striker and Hawthorns favourite, said: "From a personal point of view, Cyrille was my coach when I was here, he was a mentor for me – and he was a friend. Anybody you speak to will tell you that he was an ambassador on the football pitch and an ambassador off it."

Don Goodman, who – like Regis – represented

both Albion and Wolves, added: "Quite simply he was a boyhood hero of mine. As I got to know Cyrille through my links with West Bromwich Albion, I came to know what a great man he was. Not just because he stood up in the face of racism but because he was an all-around good fellow."

"This man was a superstar of the day, but he was a man of the people."

In a moving eulogy, his nephew Jason Roberts, who also played for Albion, said: "Carrying his coffin with my cousins, uncle and family members, it was the first time it had been hard to be Cyrille Regis's nephew. People always wanted to spend time with him, to spend time around his influence. I was so fortunate to have that as a family member."

Unique

"The way he interacted with me or my family wasn't necessarily unique. Everybody was inspired by him, that's why I went on to play football."

"It's why my uncle David went on to have a football career, why I wanted to have a career."

"As an individual and a family we don't own the legacy of Cyrille Regis, everybody here does, everybody who's been touched by him, everybody who's been motivated to stay here in the cold and listen to his legacy. He was a special man and his legacy must live on and through our memories of him."

Dave Regis, Cyrille's younger brother, said: "Like all of us, Cyrille had his ups and downs in life. There was a time after Laurie Cunningham died that he struggled to come to terms with it. He found life difficult, this is when he turned to God seeking some comfort in his life."

"When C met Julia he was back to the brother we knew. He was beaming when he introduced her, it was obvious that she made him happy. His faith brought him peace, he never forced it on anyone."

"We will miss his wisdom, his voice and his life. We will miss you bro, all day long."

Said John Sillett, Coventry City's FA Cup-winning manager: "I had the greatest job in football, managing a man called Cyrille Regis. An electric gifted character, he was a bonder of men."



Tears from fans at the memorial service



Adrian Chiles among the mourners



Beverley Knight performs during the memorial service for Cyrille Regis

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Sport

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What a man! Tributes for legend big Cyrille continue

Page 51



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Impressive setting for blue hoops

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club travelled to Wollaton Park in Nottingham for the Midlands Cross Country Championships.

Events began early with age group races, culminating in the Senior Ladies race and the last cab off the rank, the Senior Men's race.

Wollaton Park has been a regular venue for Midlands and National Championships. It is an impressive setting with the hall overlooking acres of deer park, criss-crossed by runners as they meandered around the grass following the taped-off course.

The DK ladies had been unable to field a team. However they were represented by a brave couple of blue hoops who lined up alongside a quality field. The course covering 8k over three laps including some vicious climbs zig-zagging in front of Wollaton Hall, a couple of tree trunk hurdles and a muddy section of about 200m that started off like The Somme and got gradually worse. Helen Trumans was first home in 87th place in 39.33 and Hannah McGuire finished in 43.55 to take 155th place of the 250 finishers.

The men set off just as the ladies were finishing covering four laps and 12k in distance. The hills were certainly no easier and the muddy section was almost bottomless as the afternoon progressed.

Darran Bishop brought the hoops home in 53.52 in 196th place, Dave Norman was 228th in 55.21, Mark Horner was 261st in 57.03, Simon Blizzard finished in 298th place in 58.42, Dave Hickman was 372nd in 1.02.44 and Andrew Weaver was 408th in 1.04.56. Graham Wildgoose was 434th in 1.08.17 and Richard Jones was 436th in 1.08.24 with the club finishing as the 32nd team on the day.

Heathens eight-race fixture list compiled

CRADLEY Heathens have revealed their 2018 fixture list – with just eight dates in the diary.

Heathens will race only in the National Trophy, hosting home fixtures at Monmore Green with a 7.30pm start.

Director Nigel Pearson said: "Whilst there's a lot of excitement about the team we have assembled, the reality of the situation strikes when you see the fixture list and only eight matches."

"The only way we could return to full league racing is by finally securing a site of our own, or some financial support can be given to ensure we don't lose money by staging meetings at Birmingham."

"That said, we have a super team with some exciting young talent and I'm really looking forward to seeing them in Heathens colours."

Fixtures:
Apr 27: Coventry (a)
May 7: Stoke (H)
May 12: Stoke (a)
May 21: Coventry (H)
May 26: Coventry (a)
Jun 18: Buxton (H)
Jul 16: Birmingham (H)
August 1: Birmingham (a)



James in swing for adding to haul



James Ilsley with his golfing haul

A RISING star at Dudley Golf Club has added to his growing haul of silverware.

James Ilsley, aged 12, from Sedgley, continues to make great strides on the fairways and has been crowned the club's player of the year for the fourth year in a row.

James, who plays county golf for Worcestershire under-14s, is dominating the local junior scene, also picking up the best gross score and

order of merit for the fourth year in a row. In addition to scooping the end of year accolade, James dominated in club events around the picturesque Turner's Hill course, winning eight of the 10 tournaments he entered.

James' mother Samantha Russell, who runs the club's junior section, said: "He's been getting better every year. I'm very proud.

"We're a growing side at Dudley but when James is on form, no one

can touch him, he's just that good." After being introduced to golf at seven by his father, James' love for the game blossomed after having lessons with ex-Walker Cup player Darren Prosser. The youngster has recently joined The Belfry.

Samantha added: "It's down to the parents to put the effort and time in to take their kids anywhere they need to go to play. We pride ourselves on that and it's really benefited James."

LEADERS DK IN 7-TRY HEAVEN

Worcester 12 DK 43

WORCESTER always provide a stern test for DK, but the league leaders were up to the task and recorded a seven-try victory.

Both second rows scored tries, the first to Matt Perks. The other man from the row, Dan Marsh, scored DK's sixth try in the second half.

The forwards claimed their third try when Pete Griffiths found himself on the right wing with a walk in, this gave DK a lead going into half-time.

The Worcester pitch has a deceptive slope, and the hosts, playing down it in the first half scored two tries which would have disappointed the DK coaches. The first was a sustained period of pressure on the DK line following a line out, and they got over for a good try. The second was good use of the slope, following a well-judged kick ahead by the Worcester right wing there was a race to touch the ball down, but a wicked bounce saw a Worcester hand claim the final touch.

Outside

DK's backs did score a try in the first half, and it was a good one if not the best of the game. Jordan Brookes was able to put Connah Jones onto an outside arc which he sped onto and outside his man, and speeding for the line he was tackled just short but Steff Shillingford was on hand to finish the move.

The half-time whistle saw DK 17-12 up with the advantage of the slope to come.

The backs added three tries in the second half, though there was plenty of good forward play to make them possible, not forgetting the Dan Marsh effort. The bonus point try came soon after the break, through Steff Shillingford. Sam Vaughan added the extras.

Tommy Walker added the next try and into the final minutes Connah Jones dived over, Vaughan's try completing the scoring.



There's no stopping Connah Jones as he dives over to score one of DK's seven tries

Wood rack up division's highest total

COOMBS Wood scored the highest total of the WCB Indoor League - North Division, scoring 132-3 against Quatt in week four. They bowled out Quatt for 105 to win by 27 runs.

Coombs Wood lost a wicket in the first over, but Mike Langford (24) joined Carl Whyte (25no) and quickly raised the scoring rate. After Whyte's re-

tirement, the batsmen continued to go after the bowling.

In reply, Quatt openers Rob Wheldon (26) and captain Alex Biddle (39) went chasing runs. But they were not backed up by the others, and with three wickets lost in the 10th over the target was out of reach.

In the other game, Stourbridge (110-3) beat Chaddesley

Corbett (102-5) by eight runs. After Stourbridge lost opener Stu Ludlam in the first over, Matt Bradley (30no) and captain Rashid (29no) started to repair the damage and the remaining batsmen all chipped in.

For Chaddesley Corbett the wheels came off in the middle overs when they lost three quick wickets, losing momentum.

Deduction puts Yeltz on bottom

HALESOWEN TOWN have been deducted four points for fielding an ineligible player, dumping them to the bottom of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division.

The Yeltz admitted fielding Kalern Thomas for three games in September and October while he was still registered with Solihull Moors. The club requested a personal hearing with the Evo-Stik League, and received £600 fine.

The four points won from involving Thomas played have now been deducted.

A club statement said the league met again on January 31 to discuss how the case breached their rules and the club were further charged with fielding an ineligible player, resulting in the loss of the points and another £100 fine. Halesowen are considering an appeal.

On the field, Halesowen's woes continued, shipping five goals in the second half to slump to defeat at Whitby.

Captain Steve Snaith and Junior Monda scored two each and James Fairley one. Yeltz had Marcus Posche sent off.

Stourbridge reached the Birmingham Senior Cup semi-finals on Monday with a 3-2 victory at Coleshill Town, debutant Edilson Antonio netting an 85th-minute winner after earlier goals from Leon Broadhurst and Connor Gater.

Glassboys picked up a share of the spoils against third-placed Shaw Lane in the Evo-Stik Premier on Saturday.

Luke Benbow's cross from the byeline deceived goalkeeper Eddie Wilczynski to equalise after Alex Byrne had given Shaw Lane a third minute lead.

Rivals meet for place in Hunt Cup quarters

DUDLEY Town and Tipton Town meet next Wednesday for a place in the quarter-finals of the JW Hunt Cup.

Opponents for the winners will be either Alvechurch, Heath Hayes or Wolverhampton Casuals. The first two have yet to play their first round tie, which has been postponed three times.

Already in the quarter-finals are Walsall Wood and Paget Rangers who play for a semi-final place on Tuesday. Paget ended Tividale's hopes with a 1-0 win in the second round.

A second semi-finalist will be known after Sporting Khalsa play Atherstone Town on February 27.

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